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Jakes Proposal Submitted to CSCE Meeting

LD261836 Prague CTK in English
1547 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Vienna Feb 26 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes' proposal for creating a zone of confidence, cooperation and good neighbourly relations along the line dividing the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries was dealt with at today's CSCE follow-up meeting session by head of the Czechoslovak delegation Frantisek Dolezel.

Milos Jakes spoke of this new initiative in his speech delivered on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the February 1948 victory. Frantisek Dolezel paid special attention to that part in which Milos Jakes said that Czechoslovakia has been trying to contribute at its best to the development of a comprehensive dialogue and the success of the Vienna follow-up meeting.

Frantisek Dolezel further put forward proposals for reducing military confrontation and strengthening confidence in the countries on the Warsaw Treaty-NATO line, as well as suggestions for expanding the political dialogue and cooperation and for removing obstacles and solving problems.

The head of the Czechoslovak delegation expressed the conviction that the new Czechoslovak initiative will contribute to improving the climate in Europe. The countries on the line dividing the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries could become models for the implementation of the Helsinki process. The present situation in East-West relations not only allows but literally calls for such a step.

Nonaligned Dissatisfied With Lack of Action

LD262131 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1755 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Vienna, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—Neutral and nonaligned [N-N] countries today expressed dissatisfaction at the state of affairs at the Vienna Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) session. Negotiations have practically not got off the ground, they say, underlining that a series of unsolved questions render impossible the elaboration of a draft final document.

This was stated at the plenary session by the head of the Swedish delegation when presenting a joint communique of N-N countries, the first since the opening of the Vienna meeting. The N-N countries—Austria, Finland, Yugoslavia, Liechenstein, Cyprus, Malta, San Marino, Sweden and Switzerland, express their concern and assess that, on account of the "encouraging trends on the international scene", the CSCE countries could be expected to show greater readiness at the Vienna meeting to solve the numerous controversial questions.

The N-N countries delegations are sure that, in the coming months, it would be possible to elaborate and adopt a comprehensive and balanced concluding document, which would have a beneficial effect on the promotion of the CSCE process. The N-N countries are "resolved to further exert efforts to contribute to the achievement of this aim," the communique states.

Yugoslav delegation head Ignac Golob had expressed concern on this subject at the plenary session last Tuesday, pointing out that in this way there could be no end in sight for the Vienna meeting. He warned that the countries participating should not allow the CSCE session to receive the role of "site for confrontation" at a time when "the wind of change is blowing over the European political scene."

Golob stated that agreement should at least be reached to end the Vienna meeting by the mid-year.

Further Reportage on Balkan Conference

Turkey's Yilmaz Speaks

AU281950 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 25 Feb 88 p 4

[Unattributed report on the speech Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, delivered on the first day of the Belgrade Conference: "Road To Mutual Trust"]

[Text] Cooperation among the Balkan countries has been the basis of Turkey's foreign policy since the first days of the Republic, Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz stated and recalled Kemal Ataturk's orientation toward inter-Balkan friendship and cooperation.

Speaking about the history of Balkan cooperation in the last decade, Yilmaz mentioned the agreements signed with Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, and Yugoslavia "in order to facilitate multilateral cooperation among the Balkan states." The Turkish minister recalled the Balkan Entente of 1934 that was joined by Bulgaria in 1938 before the alliance split with the outbreak of World War II. Enumerating examples of cooperation among the Balkan countries after World War II, the minister mentioned the agreements on friendship and cooperation that were signed by Turkey, Greece, and Yugoslavia in 1952, 1953, and 1954, and said that they did not last because of changes in the political and strategic circumstances, as well as to bilateral difficulties among the states in this region.

Our agenda will try to determine exact areas and possibilities for cooperation that would produce positive results relatively quickly.

Yilmaz also said that fruits of such cooperation could first be realized in the fields of telecommunications, transportation, trade, joint ventures, tourism, environmental protection, and agriculture, in all those fields that have direct influence on every day life. Progress in such specific areas could in turn lead to an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding, which would make the solving of the existing bilateral problems easier. However, this could only be achieved in a milieu that attaches the greatest importance to humanitarian issues. In fact both elements should go together and multilateral cooperation should not forget that our ultimate objective is to create a zone of friendship, mutual trust, and good neighborliness. In that context, cooperation in the cultural and consular fields can further contribute to the development of such a climate.

On the other hand, our cooperation would not be complete if we do not make greater efforts to understand questions concerning security. Yilmaz said that this matter has been given great importance in the world, mentioning the example of the two superpowers' agreement on the elimination of one category of nuclear weapons that he called a historic achievement that other steps in disarmament should follow.

All this has clear implications for the Balkans, and we should make an attempt to mutually understand and try to look into the future from the common Balkan perspective and without a particular scheme for regional disarmament. But, of course, arms control and mechanism for building trust could serve as an advisory dimension for inter-Balkan dialogue and consultations, together with the process of periodic political consultations.

Respecting the Helsinki Agreement [subhead]

In his speech Mesut Yilmaz particularly stressed the principles of the final Helsinki agreement that refer to "the respect for human rights and basic freedom, including the freedom of thought and belief," and the principles mentioned in the so-called "third basket" which deals with "cooperation in human and other fields."

Mentioning the problem of minorities, whose rights are safeguarded by international and bilateral instruments, the Turkish minister pointed out that this question deserves attention and that minorities should be primarily regarded as a "human bridge that is bringing our communities closer together." This is how we treat minorities in our country, Yilmaz said.

The minister then expressed his satisfaction for reaching mutual understanding with his Bulgarian colleague Mladenov, namely the signing of a protocol which will establish a mechanism for solving the existing problems between the two countries with the aim of improving relations in all spheres.

We believe, the Turkish foreign minister continued, that the full and serious realization of the protocol can lead to Turkish-Bulgarian relations being referred to as an example of comprehensive cooperation among states with different political systems.

Yilmaz proposed his country as the host for a meeting of the Balkan countries' ministers for economic affairs, saying that this meeting is a practical step in the field where the needs and possibilities are the greatest.

In brief, Yilmaz was of the opinion that it was obvious that Balkan cooperation could not have survived during the cold war.

Subsequent initiatives in the Balkans were confined to only non-political and technical fields that were largely the consequence of the lack of a favorable political atmosphere crucial for a broader multilateral action, Mesut Yilmaz said stressing that the current Yugoslav initiative recreates the conditions for a new era of cooperation among the Balkan countries. At the same time, there are encouraging signs that the Helsinki spirit is becoming stronger in Europe and that it is natural that such a positive development should affect inter-Balkan relations.

Wide Range of Possibilities [subhead]

"There is no doubt that a wide range of possibilities for cooperation exists in the Balkans," the Turkish minister continued. "Some of them are connected with every day life and have practical implications. Other could have a symbolic importance in laying the foundations of the road to mutual trust and good neighborliness. What we need is political will and a common denominator in our views and understanding for our initiatives to be convincing and productive."

Bulgaria's Mladenov Speaks

AU261525 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 25 Feb 88 pp 1,3

[Speech by Petur Mladenov, Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, at the conference of foreign ministers of Balkan countries in Belgrade on 24 February: "From Positions of Realism and Good Will]

[Text] Esteemed colleague Loncar, esteemed colleagues: may I, on behalf of the Bulgarian delegation, express my most sincere gratitude to the Yugoslav delegation for inviting us to participate in this topical all-Balkan meeting, as well as for your hospitality, and the excellent working conditions that are being made available to us.

The fact that we have come together in this hall is primarily because of the diplomatic activities of the SFRY. It was the initiative of this country and Yugoslavia also took over the greatest share of work in the preparations. We greet our Yugoslav friends, and we would be sincerely glad if they see us off in the same, cheerful atmosphere in which they welcomed us. This would be a well-deserved recognition of their praiseworthy efforts as organizers of this representative forum of Balkan states, which is the first of its kind in postwar history.

The meeting became possible thanks to the response and readiness for dialogue demonstrated by the Balkan states. This justifies our confidence that all participants in the meeting regard it as a first-class forum for exchanging opinions on important questions of mutual interest. This, however, is an essential prerequisite for positive results and for finding ways and means to strengthen our mutual understanding and, further, to find our cooperation. We welcome the participants in this meeting and express confidence that they will all contribute, so that this conference may accomplish its tasks in the most efficient manner.

As to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, I would like to assure the participants, and—through them—the Balkan states' governments, that our delegation has come to Belgrade in an optimistic mood, with good intentions and with the sincere wish to engage in active and fruitful efforts.

In participating in this meeting, we are assuming great responsibility toward our own people and the Balkan peoples, above all. Their fundamental and lasting aspiration to understanding and good will is well known. They place great hope in the meeting and are justified in expecting positive results. It is our duty not to disappoint their hopes and expectations.

We are not beginning our work from scratch, as the saying goes. Cooperation among Balkan states on a regional scale is based on established traditions. We appreciate the experience that has been accumulated in this respect. It is an important, constructive basis, which encourages us and represents a solid foundation for a further expansion of our joint efforts. In other words, we have something to rely upon, we have a definite point of departure.

What does the accumulated experience show? It shows that the Balkan states are capable of conducting their dialogue in a civilized manner. The reputation of being a "powder keg" is neither final, nor insurmountable. The intensive interstate communications of recent decades, particularly since the Helsinki CSCE, confirm this statement. Important documents have been signed and our trade has doubled, future trends have been mapped for Balkan economic cooperation. There have been numerous initiatives in the spheres of culture, arts, and sports. The fact that, for several years, a relative calm has prevailed in our area speaks for itself and confirms the considerable potential of detente in the Balkans. However, time is running and facing us with increasing requirements.

Esteemed colleagues, the new realities inspired a unique and already rather popular phenomenon—namely, the new political thinking. As a philosophy of realism and humanitarianism in the present-day nuclear century, new political thinking permits us to consider the world in all its variety and to accept it in all its complexity, or to put it more precisely—in all its mutual, interconnections. This, however, presupposes that we should get rid ourselves of all existing prejudices, that have been accumulated, and that we should part with the outdated cliches of the past way of thinking, replacing them by newly found original and bold approaches to the solution of problems which not only individual nations, but all mankind, is facing.

We are convinced that, the new political thinking, precisely, as a system of unconventional views on peace, war, and coexistence, is a basis for a promising and fruitful dialogue among states, including those we are here representing.

Our meeting is proceeding against the background of essential changes taking place all over the world. The Soviet-American INF treaty that was signed in 1988 initiated a process of real disarmament. Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria described it as a "historic victory of political

realism, an expression of the will and readiness for a sensible compromise in solving vitally important problems of mankind." Active efforts to stimulate cooperation and mutual confidence within the framework of the all-European process are in progress. Opportunities for a peaceful settlement of existing conflicts and hotbeds of tension are increasing. It is becoming increasingly evident that no significant international problem at all can be resolved in a lasting and just manner by the force of military means.

The situation in the Balkans cannot be separated from the general world situation. Naturally, the Balkan situation is influenced by the dynamic changes that are the result of new political thinking. The question arises: which path will we select, to which wavelength should we be tuning? Our point of view is that there can be only one answer to this question.

We by no means intend to neglect, or overlook the existence of specific national stands and interests that are a source of differences and peculiarities in domestic and foreign policy. We do not close our eyes to existing contradictions. However, it is our obligation, wisely and calmly, in a statesman-like manner, to strive to overcome them. Nevertheless, we are convinced that we should not waste our energies by engaging in polemics on questions that divide us. Obviously, it would be more beneficial to concentrate our efforts on the search for a solution of existing problems on the basis of balancing our interests.

A reality stems from this balance—namely a reality that is characteristic of our epoch—the reality that the national-state interests of no country at all can be implemented at the expense of other countries' interests. Any step in the opposite direction is likely to develop into a new problem, to produce a new crisis.

It is time to adopt an approach to the problems of the Balkan Peninsula, based on principle, an approach focusing on all-humanitarian problems, an approach, under which every one of us should contribute its own share to the progress toward the transformation of the Balkans into a zone of lasting peace and security. This is what the vital interests of all Balkan peoples require.

If they do not wish to be condemned by history, even in the near future, our Balkan countries cannot and should not remain indifferent to the historical chance of our epoch. Actually, the very fact that we have gathered here is a sufficiently eloquent proof of our unwillingness to remain behind the course of events. This fact confirms our mutual interest to engage in a dialogue on those topical issues which, figuratively speaking, are practically knocking on our doors. This is a reason for gratification, but also a serious commitment.

There is even more: certain specific political-geographic peculiarities reflect upon the mutual relations of the Balkan countries. One of them is the fact that, as a part of the great, common European home, the Balkans are linked to other areas situated in our vicinity—such as the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Before briefly dwelling on my country's specific stands, I will just say a few words on the domestic changes in our country, which exert a definite effect upon our foreign policy.

The BCP National Conference held at the end of January 1988 adopted a comprehensive concept on the further construction of socialism in our country, in the spirit of the decisions adopted by the 13th BCP Congress and the July 1987 BCP Central Committee Plenum. We are creating a model of social relations that accords with the new realities in our country and in the world today. We are heading for the implementation of a self-managing society with updated and efficient forms of socialist property. Our historic task at the threshold of the 21st century requires us to transform Bulgaria into a highly developed and civilized state.

It is in the context of these great initiatives that we are developing our foreign politically strategy, including the active development of our relations with all countries in the world under the conditions of growing mutual trust and equal security.

We have declared, on several occasions, that our country attaches priority importance to its foreign political orientation toward the Balkans and this policy is a principled one, it is consistent, and is not influenced by opportunistic considerations. Peace and security, understanding, and good neighborly relations among states in our region have always been the unchanging goal of our foreign policy. This stand is determined by the everlasting national interests of our country, on a permanent basis—and at this particular moment—by the tasks which require a prompt and high quality progress along all lines of our social development.

We have always declared ourselves in favor of decisively intensifying bilateral relations. However, we have always manifested a positive attitude to multilateral, Balkan cooperation. We have always confirmed this attitude in practice, according to our possibilities. We would like to reaffirm our readiness to work in this direction, and we would like once more to stress the requirement to devote our efforts to initiatives that are likely to combine the needs and interests of all Balkan states.

Bulgaria attaches foremost importance to cooperation in the political sector. It could not be otherwise, since this is the decisive sphere upon which all other things depend. We are convinced that the idea to transform the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons still preserves its great, topical character.

We are aware of the complications stemming from the different social systems existing in our countries, as well as from the different military political alliances that our countries belong to. Nevertheless, the new political thinking urges us to rise above the restricted understanding for class and national interests, above narrow-minded military-strategic considerations, because such an approach inevitably leads to confrontation. As a matter of fact, this confrontation already exists: weapons of mass destruction that are situated on the territory of one Balkan state are directed against other Balkan states, including our own. This threatens to destroy the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in a terrifying manner. We are living at a time of peace, but conditions of fear and mutual distrust are being created. Fear and distrust are bad advisers, they are a double-edged weapon.

We do not intend to engage in a theoretical discussion on this question and to impose the alternative "for" or "against" the elimination of mass destruction weapons from our Balkan Peninsula. We would like, however, to reveal the core of our philosophy, which means that, if we strive for a world free of nuclear weapons and violence, we should work for the total elimination of such weapons and that the liberation of the Balkans from nuclear and chemical weapons will eliminate one of the basic, destabilizing factors in this region.

Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Andreas Papandreou, prime minister of the Republic of Greece, expressed their unanimity in this context during the latter's friendly, working visit to Sofia which ended yesterday. In a joint declaration, the two statesmen pointed out that "...in accordance with the declared stands of the two states on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans, and in the spirit of the common aspiration to contribute to the consolidation of the atmosphere of detente and understanding in the Balkans following the signing of the historic treaty between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan in December 1987, the two leaders express themselves in favor of adopting measures for the elimination of tactical, nuclear weapons in the Balkans, wherever they exist, and in favor of assuming commitments for not deploying new nuclear weapons. Along with this, they appeal to the other Balkan states to accept the aforementioned proposal and to work for its implementation."

Undoubtedly, the security of the Balkans will not increase, but rather decrease if troops and arms from other regions of Europe and the world, especially modern high-precision offensive arms, are redeployed here. Conversely, security will be strengthened if measures are adopted to limit military confrontation and strengthen confidence between the Balkan states. Such measures as is well known, are actively being discussed within the framework of the European process.

In this connection, it would be expedient to discuss the questions of an exchange of information regarding the national military doctrines, with a view to reinforcing their purely defensive orientation; a changeover to the policy of contact between the two blocs within a zone of confidence; a multilateral moratorium with a subsequent reduction in military expenditures; and a direct telephone link between the state leaders, defense ministers, and border troops to prevent undesirable incidents.

We might draft a specific agreement on not permitting nuclear, chemical, conventional arms, troop detachments, and vessels on the territory of the Balkan states after their reduction in other regions of Europe. We can also discuss the issue of eliminating the existing imbalances by freezing and consistently reducing the armed forces and conventional arms of the Balkan countries to the limit of reasonable sufficiency. In order to facilitate our actions, we might discuss and adopt common criteria on what reasonable sufficiency represents.

If one is to speak of a direct threat to the balance and the security of the Balkans, then this threat lies in the development [razrabotka], acquisition, and deployment on the territory of the Balkan countries of new, up-to-date combat weapons with a high, selective kill capability. This will turn the peninsula into a focus of military confrontation, with all the complicating factors and consequences. A similar effect would be obtained from using the territories of our countries for the militarization of outer space. It is precisely this turn of events that we must not permit, if we sincerely desire peace and stability.

We see a broad field for action in the area of confidence, security, and disarmament. We are ready to talk on the entire range of measures in this area. The psychological climate in the world and in Europe and the start of the process of disarmament between the Soviet Union and the United States also favor a similar radical change in the Balkan Peninsula.

In connection with this line of thought, I would like to recall the Bulgarian initiative concerning agreeing a document on good-neighborly relations between the Balkan states. This document might take the form of a multilateral declaration, while its individual components can be drafted and agreed in stages, through partial measures that will be directed toward the common final goal.

Economic cooperation, in its broadest dimensions, is an important factor for the security of states and regions.

We are all in agreement that we have at present considerable opportunities for activating relations in the economic field, especially in industry, communications, and the power industry. Here one is referring to new forms, such as industrial production sharing, exchange of new technologies, the setting up of joint installations, and so on. It will be of undoubted benefit for us to combine our technological potential in front-line directions. It is completely feasible to achieve important results that

might contribute to speeding up the economic growth of our own states and strengthening our positions in international economic relations.

In our view, it would be expedient to jointly discuss and adopt actions in a number of promising fields. What specifically do I have in mind?

The programs of the Economic Commission for Europe are a suitable sphere for concentrating efforts and resources. We are in a position to take a beneficial part in linking the energy systems of Eastern and Western Europe with those of the Balkan countries and to actively join in the trans-European "North-South" main line [magistral] and the regional project for using low-heating-capacity fuels.

On the subject of the chambers of commerce of the Balkan countries, the possibilities may be examined for expanding economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, increasing direct contacts between economic figures, and exchanging experience on regional cooperation issues.

In our view the need has become pressing to hold a Balkan meeting on the problems of the infrastructure of rail, river, and combined transport services, liberalizing the conditions for international road freight traffic and improving its safety on the territory of the Balkan countries, modernizing and improving the equipment of the border control posts, opening new such posts, and fitting them out with modern equipment.

It is also worthwhile to devote thought to setting up a Balkans customs union, introducing simplified customs procedures, and cooperating in the organization and operation of duty-free customs zones.

It would be of interest to us and, I presume, to everyone, to establish a joint bank for financing trading operations and industrial cooperation. Attached to this bank, or functioning as a separate institution, there might be a Balkans information center for gathering commercial and economic information for use by firms and economic organizations.

The topic has often been raised of forming a Balkan communications union as a regional intergovernmental organization. Its task will be to draw up and implement a uniform strategy for developing and improving the peninsula's communications network and linking up the national communications systems with the international ones. In this context, one should perhaps also consider the opportunities for work sharing in the production of communications equipment and installations.

The ecological problems of the Balkans are of special concern to all of us. It is universally admitted that the quality of the natural environment is deteriorating sharply. Cross-border air pollution is growing. The rivers and the soil are saturated with industrial waste and chemicals. Alarm is caused by the condition of the River Danube, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Adriatic. This situation with the genetic stock in our region is critical.

Together with the socioeconomic factor, ecological problems are becoming part of the great problem of man's security. It is necessary to draw up a clear plan for future actions. The meeting of governmental experts held in Sofia in December 1987 showed that readiness does exist to adopt specific joint measures in this field. We need a practical platform for action before it becomes too late. Protection of the environment is truly a priority task, upon which the future of present and coming generations depends.

A number of ideas might be discussed and implemented in relation to cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

The Balkan states are already implementing a number of initiatives in the field of culture, science, art, and sport. However, the possibilities for activities of common benefit in this sphere are practically unlimited. In our view, the question of stimulating cooperation between scientific institutes deserves particular attention, and in this area the emphasis should be laid on joint developments. It seems that thought should also be given to cooperation in the most important directions of scientific and technical progress and in training scientific cadres.

The striving of the Balkan peoples to get to know one another better will never slacken. People's desire for direct intercourse will continue to grow. These are understandable, noble desires that should be taken into account and met. It would evidently be appropriate to look for opportunities for establishing optimum visa procedures and for improving and extending the forms of contacts in the border regions.

Together we must also think about protecting the health of our peoples. One of the pressing problems in this respect is the prevention of AIDS, which has truly acquired the nature of a pandemic. Our country is adopting vigorous measures to prevent the spread of this insidious disease. However, the problem is as much an international as a national one. We are prepared to discuss the possibilities for Balkan-wide cooperation to protect our peoples against this disease of the age, as well as for cooperating in the struggle against all other diseases that are commonly called social ones.

It is a sad fact that in the modern world it is impossible to find any decisive counteraction against inhuman social manifestations, such as terrorism and the illegal trade in arms and narcotics. I think that there is no need to prove how much might be achieved if the Balkan states start to work on the same wavelength in this respect as well. We are ready to actively support all proposals and initiatives aimed at coordinating actions in the campaign against these social evils.

Esteemed colleagues, we cannot demand everything from our meeting, or even ask for a lot. We should not be maximalists, but take a look at the prospects. At this stage it would be sufficient to synthesize specific views on the directions and nature of Balkan-wide cooperation—today and in the future. If we achieve this, we will be justified in saying that the first step has already been made. And this step is indeed the one that starts the forward movement. It is the step that will impart the initial velocity. It will be the task of the future meetings to provide the acceleration, in order that our cooperation should acquire the character of a dynamically developing, ascending process.

The work that we are taking on will not automatically proceed smoothly and without hindrance, of its own accord. There will be difficulties and uncertainties, but this is inevitable, and we must not allow them to disillusion us and make us demobilize. Since we are deciding to engage in something, it is proper that we would arm ourselves with willpower and firmness, with consistency and perseverance.

In order to reach agreement in one field or another, we must proceed with patience and searching, and pass through various stages.

The approval and development of the beginning that we are making here, in Belgrade, would play an important role in activating Balkan-wide cooperation. In our opinion, there are no reasons why the ministers' meeting should not become a traditional event, held successively in individual capitals at established intervals, for example every two years. We also support a summit meeting, provided the necessary conditions for this are created.

We may also agree on creating an appropriate mechanism for joint discussion of the specific proposals and for maintaining a continuous contact and dialogue on the different aspects of Balkan-wide cooperation, which is to operate between the ministers' meetings.

Colleagues, friends, in the century-long annals of the stormy past of our peninsula there are many dramatic pages, pages of fateful trials, trials that have become lessons for us. To our common joy, these annals also contain many bright pages that are worthy of respect and deserve to be the object of particular attention, because they have outgrown their attachment to the different epochs, and come down to us as a message, an example, and a call to action.

The indelible memory of these pages reveals to us such eternal truths as the wisdom, tolerance, and love of peace of the Balkan peoples, their capacity to live and associate with each other as good neighbors.

This is why we should leaf through these pages and, as worthy successors, make our own additions to them for the future generations. We should preserve everything of value that has been achieved up to now, and add more to it. And this would be in full accord with the interests and aspirations of our peoples, in harmony with the new tendencies in international relations. To put it even more concisely, this would be our collective contribution to strengthening peace and security, to understanding and cooperation in the Balkans, in Europe, and throughout the world.

Let us wish that the good intentions with which we have come to Belgrade will be followed by concrete deeds.

Thank you for your attention.

Mladenov, SFRY's Loncar Meet

AU261459 Sofia BTA in English 1443 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 26 (BTA special correspondent)—A meeting between Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, and Mr Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs of Yugoslavia, was held here.

The two ministers examined the multilateral cooperation in the Balkans in the light of the current meeting of the Balkan states' foreign ministers. Other international issues were also discussed.

In their friendly and constructive discussion, the two ministers examined the development of the cooperation between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and spoke for its further broadening.

Mladenov on Meeting

LD261514 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1420 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—In view of the situation in the Balkans, at the Belgrade forum we attained the most we could, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov said today at the end of the Balkan ministerial conference. We agreed on a number of constructive ideas to advance multilateral cooperation among our countries and thus made a very important step forward, a significant progress in the spirit of new political thinking and new tendencies in Europe and in the world.

Mladenov said the most important results of the meeting was the fact that constructive spirit had prevailed among the participants and that this held promise of success at future meetings.

Asked whether the Balkan meeting could have been convened before, he said that the necessary conditions for such a meeting had to be provided for in order to ensure the results which were attained now. "It would have been much more difficult before because, as should always be borne in mind, we are only a part of the world," he added.

Romania's Totu Views Meeting

LD261504 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1423 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 26 (TANJUG)—Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu today called the just concluded Balkan ministerial meeting in Belgrade a "great stride" in the further development of relations among the countries in the Balkans, as a zone of understanding and security. He expressed confidence that Romania will continue to act towards the establishment of a peace and cooperation zone in the Balkans, which may also be an example for others to follow.

Totu said that good working conditions for the meeting had been ensured in Belgrade, which contributed to the attainment of "concrete results acceptable to all."

He thanked vice president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia Raif Dizdarevic, who, as Yugoslavia's foreign secretary, initiated the holding of the ministerial meeting and for a time conducted activities connected with its organization.

Albania's Malile on Meeting

LD261548 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1458 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—We have come to Belgrade with a sincere wish to strengthen peace and security in the Balkans. The problems in the Balkans are neither small nor easy, but we believe that the exchange of views among the foreign ministers of the six Balkan states in Belgrade could serve as a basis for the beginning of their settlement—Albanian Foriegn Minister Reis Malile said.

It cannot be said that all problems have been resolved in Belgrade, he said. Expressing satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting, Malile added that "an assessment can only be made on the basis of the results achieved." He also said he believed that the proposals made at the Belgrade meeting would not remain "only a dead letter on paper."

Greece's Papoulias on Meeting

LD261556 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1439 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—We arrived at the best possible document at the first, historic meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries in Belgrade, Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias said.

The Belgrade meeting is a very significant beginning, he said. An awareness prevailed at the meeting that "we have, in fact, covered half the road and we have to help each other to bring about ideal cooperation."

Papoulias noted that before the meeting there had been pessimists who claimed that a major problem in the discussions would be the difficulties in relations among the six states. "They are now disappointed," he added.

The Greek foreign minister also said that there were certain problems but that they had been recognized and that solutions to them should be sought.

Elaborating on future relations in the peninsula, Papoulias noted the importance of "strengthening cooperation and finding practical ways to do so." "With an atmosphere of renewed mutual confidence stemming from cooperation, we will be able to surmount all bilateral problems too," he concluded.

Loncar's Wind-Up Speech

LD261615 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1213 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 26 Feb (TANJUG)—Today's plenum of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries opened at the Sava Center with a delay of nearly 1 hour. This delay occured in order to "polish up" the draft final communique, a document that sums up what has been achieved in the 3 days of the session of foreign ministers of the six Balkan countries—Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Romania, and Bulgaria.

At the start of the session the chairman of the meeting, Budimir Loncar put on the agenda the draft final document which had already been submitted to all the delegations. [passage omitted]

After the adoption of the document, Federal Secretary Budimir Loncar underlined in his winding up speech the importance of this historic meeting and expressed the conviction that a significant step was made in the direction of consolidating cooperation in the Balkans.

I am convinced that I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that this meeting fulfilled our expectations and that it was crowned with success, stressed Budimir Loncar said in his wind-up speech.

Loncar pointed out that a path was mapped in Belgrade for better and more fruitful cooperation between the Balkan countries, that priorities of this cooperation were established, and agreement reached on the continuity of meetings of the Balkan countries at the ministerial and other levels and on the expansion of cooperation in non-governmental organizations, both existing and new forms of this cooperation.

Loncar added that the success of the Belgrade meeting was attributable to all countries who deserve equal credit for its constructive work.

The federal secretary pointed out that it will be necessary to exert fresh efforts to attain the desired level of inter-Balkan cooperation. We have no illusions about

easily overcoming the accumulated problems. But, Loncar added, we have reaffirmed here that we are all interested in and aware of the needs of all countries and peoples in the Balkans concerning the promotion and further development of cooperation, understanding, and trust in this geographic region and that it is vital to this end to discover appropriate ways for the enrichment of relations of all of us and each one of us.

Budimir Loncar warned that "we should not allow that the Balkans to remain on the sidelines of positive trends in Europe." Both a desire and a readiness have been demonstrated in Belgrade within this framework, the chairman of the meeting added.

Minister Loncar emphasized that the success of the meeting was attributable to everyone and to the involvement of each delegation.

Speaking about the joint communique, Loncar pointed out that it represents a good basis for moving ahead and expressed the conviction that "we will further develop and enrich it through future activities."

Loncar went on to express the opinion that the meeting achieved, in fact, more than is written in the communique. "We heard a series of ideas and proposals that we will, of course, examine with a great deal of attention and strive to realize in our future joint work."

Loncar devoted special attention to the importance of the achieved level of understanding, joint responsibility, political wisdom, and feeling of trust, which fully characterized this meeting's work.

"I wish to express the conviction that we close this meeting even more resolute in our orientations and strivings to improve the situation in the Balkans," Budimir Loncar said.

Extending sincere gratitude to his colleagues and to all the members of the Balkan delegation, Loncar stressed that the constructive spirit of the Belgrade meeting was "the best indication that our future work will also be fruitful."

Finally, Loncar thanked in particular the representatives of the public information media who "in their distinguished and large numbers have followed our meeting and reported on its proceedings and results, which clearly speaks about the great public interest in everything we have discussed here." [Subsequent TANJUG parts not received]

Expectations Exceeded, Loncar Says

LD261552 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1509 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—The Belgrade ministerial meeting has proved even somewhat more productive than had been expected, chairman of the meeting, Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar stated to TANJUG today.

Loncar said that the joint communique turned out to be more substantive and comprehensive than initially anticipated, thanks to the fact the meeting fully confirmed the existence of goodwill, strengthened the spirit of mutual trust and provided guidelines for further cooperation.

The highly positive work of the meeting has enabled a final document which covers political, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation and cooperation in all other areas relevant for comprehensive cooperation in the Balkans, as Loncar stressed.

Loncar said that the group photograph of the six foreign ministers, taken at the Sava Centre after the meeting ended work, "could be a symbol of the beginning of new cooperation among the Balkan countries", that is, of "a historical moment".

Balkan Meeting Ends

NC261608 Athens Domestic Service in Greek
1230 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] All the delegations from the Balkan countries expressed their satisfaction with and approval of a joint statement establishing the processes for multilateral inter-Balkan cooperation before concluding the work of the Balkan foreign ministers conference at 1400 Greek time today.

As the text of the joint statement demonstrates, the six ministers agreed on the following points, on the basis of which the multilateral inter-Balkan cooperation will be implemented:

—Periodic conferences of the foreign ministers;

—A summit conference by Balkan leaders after the proper preparations are made;

—Creation of a coordinating organization made up of senior diplomatic officials from the foreign ministries;

—A series of ministerial-level meetings during 1988, to be held in the Balkan capitals.

Addressing Greek newsmen, Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias described the creation of a coordinating organization as an extremely important step because, as he said, all previous efforts aimed toward multilateral cooperation did not produce any results because of instability and lack of movement. This is now being overcome.

Mladenov's Statement

AU261646 Sofia BTA in English
1657 GMT 26 Feb 88

["Statement by P. Mladenov"—BTA headline]

[Text] Belgrade, February 26 (BTA)—We have achieved the possible maximum, taking into account the realities existing in the Balkans, said Bulgaria's foreign minister, Mr Petur Mladenov, today, at the concluding session of the Belgrade meeting. He expressed the opinion that a good work has been done at the three-day meeting, the participants in it have been up to the mark set by the interests of the Balkan peoples. The Balkan level of thinking, represented by us, was in accord with the modern political in the world today, it was in unison with the new tendencies in the development of the international relations, emphasised Mr Petur Mladenov. Bulgaria's foreign minister pointed out that the document that has been adopted at the meeting represents a broad platform for joint work. I think that we have reached the possible maximum, taking into account the realities existing in the Balkans, said Mr Petur Mladenov, expressing the conviction that the meeting will have a great importance for the development of the situation in the Balkan Peninsula, and even a wider importance—for peace in Europe and in the world.

Turkey's Yilmaz on Minorities

LD261706 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1448 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—Turkey has always pointed out that the rights enjoyed by the Turkish minority in Yugoslavia should be a model for many states of how to tackle this sensitive question, Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said today.

In his assessment, the Turkish minority in Yugoslavia is a bridge of cooperation and friendship between the two countries and one of the major factors enabling good relations with Yugoslavia.

Yilmaz also said that in their high-level contacts Turkey and Yugoslavia had always invested efforts to find comprehensive forms of bilateral cooperation, adding that he believed that the Balkan ministerial meeting in Belgrade would exert favourable influence on new trends in cooperation.

Yilmaz on Results

LD261712 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1524 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—The results of the first meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers in Belgrade are of great importance for the future of all Balkan countries and even others, Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz stated today.

The Belgrade meeting marks a great success in the efforts aimed at solving the human rights issues in the spirit of the Helsinki conference, the Turkish Foreign minister said.

Although the formulations in the joint communique have failed fully to meet the Turkish expectations, the fact that the joint communique mentions humanitarian questions gives hope that the issues will gradually be resolved, the Turkish minister said.

We are indebted to Yugoslavia for the success of the Belgrade meeting, the first meeting of its kind in the history of the Balkans, Minister Yilmaz said.

Yilmaz Comments on Communique

TA261808 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1700 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Balkan foreign ministers conference held in Belgrade has ended. A joint communique released at the end of the 3-day conference says that substantive steps have been made for lasting cooperation and detente in the region. Turkish Radio and Television [TRT] correspondent Muzaffer Baca reports from Belgrade:

The first step in replacing tension in the Balkans with friendship and cooperation has been made in Belgrade. The conference in which the six Balkan country foreign ministers met for the first time since World War II ended today.

The joint communique issued at the end of the conference contains most of the issues the participating countries especially wanted to be included. Some of these were framed carefully so that nothing was included that could anger any of the countries or undermine relations.

Upon Turkey's insistence the issue of ethnic minorities was also included in the final communique. The article on minorities says that the humanitarian aspect of cooperation was also raised during the conference; the article stressed that the ethnic minorities are a factor affecting harmony, friendship, stability, and cooperation among the regional countries.

In a statement to the TRT correspondent at the conference hall, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said that the inclusion of this article in the communique is an important development. He said that naturally, he would have liked this matter to have been given a more prominent place. Considering that this is the first time this issue has been raised in a statement issued by a conference of all Balkan countries of differing trends, he said, it must be viewed as a significant development.

He pointed out that as the communique made clear, all Balkan country ministers responsible for economy and trade will meet in Turkey in 1988.

He concluded by saying that all ministers who participated in the conference conceded that the agreements reached with Greece in Davos, with Bulgaria in Belgrade, and the protocols signed afterward all contributed to the success of the conference.

[passage omitted]

Loncar on Results

LD261823 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1515 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—The meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries will contribute to the enhancement of the atmosphere of confidence, thus also creating the conditions for a settlement of outstanding questions among the Balkan countries, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar told a press conference today held at the Sava Congress Centre immediately after the closing of the meeting.

He said the meeting would not have been convened in the first place had it not been for the political will and resolve of the participating states.

He also said that an agreement was reached that national minorities should be a "factor of cohesion and promotion of relations." The very fact that minorities were mentioned in the joint communique testifies to the progress made, said Loncar.

Asked whether he had received an invitation to visit Tirana, Loncar replied that there would be more meetings with all ministers, including the Albanian foreign minister. He said that he and Malile had very substantive talks motivated by efforts to promote cooperation, and added that "a higher degree of confidence" was evident in the talks.

As to future Balkan meetings, Loncar said it would be premature to say that Bucharst would be the venue of a Balkan summit, if agreement was reached to hold such a meeting. One of the first next meetings would be held at the foreign ministry officials' level, he said.

Asked wehther military cooperation was on the agenda of the Balkan meeting, Loncar said it was not discussed at all.

Albanian, Greek Ministers Meet

LD261709 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1517 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—The foreign ministers of Greece and Albania said today the relations between their countries are good.

Karolos Papoulias and Reis Malile conferred in Belgrade where they attended the meeting of the foreign ministers of the six Balkan states.

Greece and Albania last year abolished the state of war which had existed between them for more than 40 years.

The two ministers discussed the development of bilateral economic relations since Papoulias' visit to Tirana in November last year.

They also discussed the forthcoming visit to Albania by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, the date of which has not been announced yet.

Papoulias invited Malile to visit Athens. The invitation was accepted.

Mikulic Receives Ministers

LD262139 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1921 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 26 (TANJUG)—It is our destiny to live as neighbours and we should live as friends and should develop the mutual cooperation in all areas, as common interests and needs for that exist, Yugoslav Federal Premier Branko Mikulic told the Balkan foreign ministers today, whom he received after they ended their Belgrade meeting.

Mikulic set out that the successful outcome of the Belgrade ministerial meeting had opened a new chapter in relations among the Balkan countries, contributing to the consolidation of peace and cooperation in the Balkans, Europe and the world as a whole.

The Yugoslav federal premier said that a historical opportunity had been used to take an important step towards strengthening the mutual trust in the Balkans, coupled with respect for the integrity of every country and every country's interest in the solution of various problems inherited from the past.

Thanking Premier Mikulic on behalf of the participants in the Belgrade meeting, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petar Mladenov expressed the wish for the climate and relations of peace, understanding and good-neighbourly cooperation to persist in the Balkans.

Mojsov Receives Ministers

LD262218 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2022 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Feb (TANJUG)—Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, this evening received in the White Palace in Dedinje the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries who participated in the meeting in Belgrade. Attending the reception were the foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia—Reis Malile, Petur Mladenov, Karolos Papoulias, Ioan Totu, Mesut Yilmaz, and Budimir Loncar, the host of the meeting and federal secretary for foreign affairs.

Lazar Mojsov had separate meetings and talks with all the foreign ministers, which passed off in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere. The joint assessment was that the ministerial meeting in Belgrade was successful and that it was organized at the right time. The results of the meeting, it was said in the talks, stimulate positive develpoments in the Balkans and create favorable conditions for the development of multilateral cooperation in the peninsula. It was stated that the strengthening of this cooperation contributes to the advancement of international relations as a whole, good-neighborliness and understanding, and thus also the resolution of individual problems between the Balkan countries, which are the consequence of historical development. The strengthening of all forms of cooperation in the Balkans creates conditions for overcoming these difficulties and disagreements.

During the talks there was expression of the common readiness to make efforts in the period ahead in order to realize what has been agreed on at the meeting. Lazar Mojsov stressed that good-neighborly cooperation in the Balkans is vital for all the countries of the region, because in its absence they would remain on the sidelines of European and world developments.

It was also said in the talks that the foreign ministers meeting represents a positive step toward the realization of the joint aspirations of the Balkan peoples and a contribrution to detente in the region but also in the broader international sphere. The desire was expressed for the ministerial meeting and its results to be just the first step in strengthening multilateral cooperation in the Balkans.

Also present at the reception were Sinan Hasani and Radovan Vlajkovic, members of the Yugoslav Presidency; Milojko Drulovic, president of the SAWPY Federal Conference; Marko Orlandic, a member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium; and other Yugoslav personalities.

Malile on Ties With GDR

LD271936 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1825 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Feb (ADN)—Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile has assessed the "restoration of full diplomatic relations" between both states as a "very positive fact" for relations between his country and the GDR. This step opened up good possibilities for cooperation, the foreign minister told GDR television in Belgrade. "I currently see good possibilities for the extension of cooperation in the areas of trade, scientific and technical contacts, medicine, culture, and sport. As a general assessment, I would like to say that the talks held with my counterpart, Oskar Fischer, on the fringes of the UN General Assembly in New York had very positive effects, and the agreements reached have been completely fulfilled."

On Albania's part in the meeting of the foreign ministers' of the Balkan states, the minister said: "We want to aid the extension of multilateral cooperation between all countries in this region. It is our basic concern to make our concrete contribution to good and peaceful cooperation between our states."

Ministers Leave Belgrade

LD271239 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1200 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 27 (TANJUG)—The ministers of foreign affairs of Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey left Belgrade today after the three-day ministerial meeting of the Balkan countries.

The distinguished guests—Reis Malile, Petur Mladenov, Ioan Totu and Mesut Yilmaz—were seen off at Belgrade airport by their host and chairman of the meeting, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar.

Karolos Papoulias of Greece left Belgrade last night.

Malile Stops in Skopje

LD271800 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1539 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Skopje, 27 Feb (TANJUG)—After the conclusion of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers meeting in Belgrade, the delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, led by Foreign Minister Reis Malile, today stopped over in the capital of the SR of Macedonia while on their way home.

Minister Reis Malile and members of the Albanian delegation were welcomed and greeted in Skopje by Milco Balevski, a member of the Macedonian Executive Council and president of the Republican Committee for International Relations; Jugoslav Todorovski, president of the Assembly of the City of Skopje; and Aleksandar Dimitrov, deputy president of the Republican Committee for International Relations.

A luncheon was given in Skopje for Minister Malile and members of the Albanian delegation, which was attended also by Novak Pribicevic, the SFRY ambassador in Tirana, and Kujtim Hysenaj, the Albanian ambassador in Belgrade.

From Skopje Minister Malile and the delegation continued their journey to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania via the Cafasan border pass.

Further on Balkan Belgrade Conference

Mladenov Return Noted

AU271747 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
1730 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov has returned to Sofia from Belgrade, where he had taken part in the meeting of the Balkan countries' diplomatic leaders.

Press Comments on Conference

AU271351 Sofia BTA in English
1331 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 27 (BTA)—All papers carry editorial comments on the Belgrade meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers which ended yesterday.

RABOTNICHESKO DELO writes that the first post-war meeting of all foreign ministers from this part of the world will be recorded in history as the first manifestation of new political thinking on the peninsula, of the new philosophy of peace and security of the Balkan peoples and as a starting point of the collective actions in the name of confidence, good-neighbor relations and cooperation. The most important thing about the meeting was that not a single country was absent at the forum, writes the author. He emphasizes that the ministers had put aside the narrowly national positions and considerations and other matters which could be discussed at later bilateral meetings. Attention was however focused on the long-term aims and intentions of all Balkan peoples. RABOTNICHESKO DELO writes that the forthcoming meetings envisaged in the joint communique will help implement the fruitful initiatives approved by the forum in the Yugoslav capital. The most important thing is to turn these contacts into a regular form of maintaining the dialogue in fulfilment of the greatest aim set by Mr Todor Zhivkov in 1981—the calling of a Balkan summit meeting.

An editorial published in ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME analyzes certain aspects of Bulgaria's contribution to the Belgrade meeting, which has been supported by the Balkan peoples. The paper stresses the Bulgarian side's readiness to sign bilateral agreements on good-neighbor relations, to help put aside all territorial claims, avoid all kinds of unfriendly actions and further broaden the cooperation on matters of common interest. The initiatives to turn the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons and the proposal on the signing of a Balkan ecological protection treaty are steps designed to strengthen peace, security and cooperation in this part of the world.

BTA Observer Views Results

AU271729 Sofia BTA in English
1658 GMT 27 Feb 88

["In the Interest of the Balkan Peoples"—BTA headline]

[Text] Belgrade, February 27 (BTA political observer Nencho Khranov)—The meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers, which ended in the Yugoslav capital yesterday, was assessed by all participants as an important achievement in the promotion of the good-neighbor relations, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of this part of the world.

The most important characteristic of the talks in Belgrade's Sava Congress Center was the goodwill, political realism and the desire to start a good and mutually beneficial cooperation. The meeting showed that progress can be made if the participants put forth all the issues that unite the interests of the Balkan countries, such as peace, security, the easing of the tensions and the promotion of confidence. A common platform for multilateral cooperation was built on the basis of a balance of interests, the feeling of responsibility for the future and the common needs. Thus, the first serious attempt was made to break up the stereotypes of the past and to focus attention to the things that unite the Balkan nations.

The joint communique adopted at the meeting emphasizes a readiness to further strengthen peace and security in the Balkans. Five of the six states represented in Belgrade are for the turning of this part of the world into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons. We can hope that in the near future this noble initiative will be fulfilled. The very essence of the Belgrade meeting is an expression of new political thinking, of new approaches to the strengthening of confidence and the constructive dialogue.

The Belgrade meeting has outlined a broad schedule for the cooperation in the fields of the economy, transport, the protection of the environment, trade and culture. Three important meetings have been set for 1988 alone: a meeting of the ministers of the economy or foreign trade in Turkey, of the transport ministers in Yugoslavia and of experts on ecology in Sofia. Preparations are under way for the holding of a meeting on the industrial cooperation and technology transfer in Romania and measures have been taken to implement Greece's idea for the setting up of a research institute for Balkan economic cooperation. The activation of the contacts between parliaments, journalists, researchers and between the committees for Balkan understanding has been encouraged.

It has been agreed to make the meeting of the foreign ministers will become a regular feature in the future. [sentence as received] Official representatives of the

Balkan countries' foreign ministries will meet in Sofia before July to examine all proposals made at the foreign ministers' meeting and to set a schedule for the future contacts.

The first step forward has been made. Given the necessary goodwill and consistency, we are certain that a lot more will be made. This will be to the benefit not only of the Balkan states, but will also be part of the constructive international dialogue, a contribution, as Mr Zhivkov said, to the building of the "Balkan floor of our common European home."

The People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue to do everything within its powers to promote friendship, good-neighbor relations and cooperation in the Balkans.

Semerdzhiev Discusses Soviet Army Anniversary
AU282108 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 23 Feb 88 p 2

[Speech delivered by Colonel General of the Army Atanas Semerdzhiev, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the general staff of the Bulgarian People's Army, at festive meeting held at the Sofia Georgi Kirkov Hall on 22 February to mark the 70th anniversary of the USSR Army and Navy]

[Excerpts] History is familiar with the many armies which have emerged, developed, and disappeared together with the states they served as instruments of war. There have also been armies of a progressive, and even revolutionary nature, which have played an important role in the development of society. However there has never been an army and there is no army today that can in the least be compared to the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union with their heroic deeds devoted to the liberation of oppressed mankind and with their revolutionary influence upon the world. This is why, as a greater writer stated, all those who love freedom are infinitely indebted to the Red Army and can never repay this debt. [passage omitted]

Engaging in extensive peaceful construction the Soviet Union, within a short historical period, developed from a technically and economically backward country into a great, industrialized state.

However, as it was pointed out in Comrade M.S. Gorbachev's report at the festive meeting on the occasion of the 70th October Revolution anniversary, in those years, under the conditions of the enthusiasm and selfless efforts of the people, a commanding-administrative system was established in the country's state and party leadership, bureaucratic methods were consolidated, a danger, of which Lenin warned. The personality cult was established. Misuse of power was allowed to occur. Talented army leaders like Blyukher, Tukhavechevskiy, Yegorov, Yakir, Uborevich, and others were among those who were subjected to unjustified repressive measures. Those who were not subjected to such measures, were nevertheless, strongly affected in their spirit and morals. Nevertheless, the cadres who remained in the armed forces fully preserved their loyalty to the socialist motherland, and their readiness to devote their lives to its defense. [passage omitted]

We are living in a period of truthfulness and it is a lofty moral duty to evaluate the past in an objective, just, and honest manner.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government were not unaware of the approaching military danger which threatened the country. They adopted a series of measures for increasing the country's defensive power. [passage omitted]

Stalin's forecast, supported by others, that Hitler, as long as he was engaged in fighting on the Western front, would not open a front against the Soviet Union, involved heavy consequences for the country's defense. Stalin did not have the strength to renounce this stand and to reevaluate the situation, even after France was defeated, despite the information he had received about an imminent attack.

Yes, such mistakes and shortcomings did exist. However, we cannot fail to take the objective circumstances into consideration.

It has been pointed out on several occasions that aggression against the Soviet country was carefully prepared for a long time with the participation of the ruling circles from the imperialist states.

There is even more: The Soviet Union and its armed forces had to face the severe attack alone and engage in the most violent and merciless struggle with an extremely powerful military machine. No army of the capitalist world was capable of resisting it. Marshal Zhukov's evaluations on this subject are widely known. They were published several decades after the war, following a profound analysis of the events and the role of the personalities which participated in them. [passage omitted]

The Soviet Army today also serves the most progressive ideas and principles. Today it continues to be the main protector of socialism, the invincible support of world peace and security. It is part of the flesh and blood of the Soviet people. The Soviet Army brilliantly embodies the friendship among the peoples of the Soviet country. National enmity, racial hatred, which are typical for the armies of the imperialist countries are totally alien to it. On the contrary, the Soviet Army is educated in a spirit of profound respect for the interests of other nations, including non-socialist countries. It is linked by fraternal ties to the armies of the world of socialism. It is the backbone and decisive force of the Joint Warsaw Pact Armed Forces.

For almost as long as 3 years Soviet society has been living under conditions of fundamental restructuring which, naturally totally affects the armed forces. It could not be otherwise, since they are an inseparable part of Soviet society. [passage omitted]

One of the brightest pages in Bulgaria's military history were the joint operations of the young Bulgarian People's Army with the units of the Third Ukrainian Front in cooperation with the Yugoslav People's Liberation Army during the closing stage of the battle for the defeat of Hitler's Germany.

Not only the past links us to the Soviet people and to its armed forces. The present day and the lofty goals which we are striving for unite us.

In coping with the tasks of consolidating the military potential of the Bulgarian People's Army and in increasing its readiness our party and the military cadres today are searching for basically new solutions which, in their scope and character, should conform to the concept adopted by the 1987 July plenum of the BCP Central Committee on the further construction of socialism in our country and to the decisions of the BCP National Conference. This, in our opinion, is one of the most important pre-conditions for the accomplishment of the historic task of promoting our society to a qualitatively new level, by reliably guaranteeing its military defense. [passage omitted]

These significant changes in international affairs represent a victory of all peace-loving forces but they are, above all, the results of the tremendous efforts of the Soviet Union and the other allied states, the results of the courageous, and flexible policy, based on principle, which is conducted by the Soviet party and state leadership. This policy is one of the most brilliant manifestations of the tremendous potential laid down in the new political thinking and restructuring strategy developed by the CPSU Central Committee under the leadership of Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, and by the central committees of the communist and workers parties in the other allied countries. The contribution of the BCP, including the personal contribution of Comrade Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, is great.

The aforementioned statements, however, do not signify that the problems of the fraternal countries' defense have lost their topical character and their crucial importance. Such a conclusion would be totally erroneous. Along with the aforementioned, positive facts, there are numerous events and facts which demonstrate that the most reactionary circles of imperialism, have not given up and do not intend to give up their militarist plans. [passage omitted]

At the consultations of the 23 states in Vienna for the elaboration of a mandate on negotiations for the limitation of armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Ural, the NATO member states continue to insist upon their unconstructive positions which are aimed at ensuring one-sided strategic advantages for them.

A provocational violation of the Soviet marittime borders was committed recently which can only be evaluated as a manifestation of unwillingness, or incapacity on the part of certain U.S. circles to understand that any attempt of military pressure against socialism is doomed to failure. These actions newly confirm the nature of imperialism which was unmasked by Lenin, who said that this nature will never change for the "better." As Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev stated: "We never had any illusions in this respect."

One of the chief postulates of new political thinking is the tenet based on principle that more arms in our contemporary world do not mean greater security, but, less security, and that nuclear war cannot be a continuation of a sensible policy, because it is disastrous for a life, and hence for any policy. This is why, the military doctrine, adopted at the 28-29 May 1987 Berlin conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee, expressly stressed that war, under contemporary conditions, is not inevitable and that its prevention is a supreme goal; it is the nucleus of this doctrine. Naturally, its implementation is a question of mainly using peaceful political means. But as long as the reactionary military circles in the West continue to strive for military superiority and to adhere to the stereotypes of the aggressive way of thinking, the armed forces of the allied states must maintain their combat readiness, which will protect them against any surprise attacks, and if they should be attacked they will be capable of responding with a devastating retaliatory strike against the aggressor, because 1941 should never be repeated.

The method of ensuring truly equal security today is to lower the ceiling of the strategic balance to the limits of a sensible necessary minimum.

Comrades, historical fatalism is alien to us. People are debating and will always debate about the extent to which certain social phenomena have determined the course of events. However, who can deny that the history of the 20th century would be unthinkable, without the Red Army, without the Soviet Armed Forces, and without their heroic deeds?! It is as unthinkable as the transition of mankind from the past to the future, from the epoch of oppression to the era of full liberation from oppression is unthinkable without the cause of the October Revolution. This cause, however, must be protected with the force of arms, as long as imperialism has not given up its intention of destroying this cause with the force of arms. [passage omitted]

Balev, BCP Delegation Leave for Prague

AU261926 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] A BCP delegation led by Comrade Milko Balev left for Prague. The delegation will take part in the conference of international affairs secretaries of the

central committees of communist and workers parties from the socialist countries.

The delegation includes Comrade Dimitur Stanishev and other responsible workers of the BCP Central Committee.

Labor Daily Comments on Protocol With Turkey
AU272012 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian
25 Feb 88 p 4

[Unattributed commentary: "A Step Toward Building Our Common Home"]

[Text] It is a permanent, unchanging standpoint in our foreign policy to develop our relations with other states on the basis of mutual understanding, mutual trust, and mutual respect. This applies with equal, if not with even greater force to our contacts and cooperation with the countries in southeastern Europe, with our Balkan neighbors. Many times, at different forums and on different occasions, we have stressed our sincere desire that the peninsula where we live should be turned into a zone of peace, understanding, and stability.

The Bulgarian-Turkish protocol that was signed in Belgrade on the promotion of relations of good-neighborliness, friendship, and cooperation is an important step in this direction. It opens the way toward strengthening the contacts with our southern neighbor, and expanding and deepening the bilateral dialogue. In the names of their governments, the two foreign ministers inscribed their signatures on this document, which provides for the setting up of a joint working group, chaired by deputy ministers of foreign affairs, to draw up a joint declaration encompassing the principles of good-neighborliness, friendship, and cooperation between Bulgaria and Turkey. A second mixed group will be formed to develop cooperation in the economic, trade, cultural, and other fields. The agreement to hold periodic meetings of the foreign ministers themselves is of particular importance.

And now, a few hours after the information agencies had distributed the news of the signing of the protocol, an announcement arrived from Belgrade on a fresh meeting of the foreign ministers, at which specific steps were already outlined for implementing what had been agreed upon. It was specified that in May this year our capital will host a session of the bilateral political commission, while in Ankara a session of the commission on problems of cooperation in economics and other fields will be held. The schedule for the dialogue at foreign minister level has already been approved.

In his greetings telegram to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries that opened yesterday in Belgrade, Comrade Todor Zhivkov states: "The Belgrade forum will give a strong impetus to consolidating confidence and the spirit of good-neighborliness and to active and fruitful cooperation in the economic, cultural, and the sociohumanitarian spheres. I am convinced that this impetus will contribute to the all-Balkan dialogue related to jointly constructing the "Balkan floor" of the all-European house."

The Bulgarian-Turkish protocol signed in Belgrade, on the eve of the opening of the meeting there, is of exceptional importance for the creation of this common Balkan floor of ours.

Aleksandrov Receives DPRK's Kim Chong-suk
AU262120 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
2030 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Comrade Chudomir Aleksandrov received Kim Chong-suk, member of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers Party and editor in chief of the daily MINJU CHOSON. He acquainted the lady guest with the tasks that the BCP and the Bulgarian people are solving for the successful fulfillment of the decisions of the 13th BCP Congress and the BCP National Conference. He confirmed the solidarity of our people with the struggle of the fraternal Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country.

Kim Chong-suk expressed thanks for the support that the BCP and the Bulgaria are giving to the peace initiatives of the DPRK Government for reducing the tension in the Korean peninsula.

Preliminary Data on Election Participation
AU281905 Sofia BTA in English
1836 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 28 (BTA)—The elections for municipal and regional councils and for mayors and people's councillors at the townhalls were held here.

270,000 citizens, representatives of different party and public organizations and movements, were members of the 43,700 electoral commissions elected by the voters.

Preliminary data just released indicate that 6,445,273 people have taken part in the elections which is 98.42 percent of the total electorate.

The elections were held under the conditions of the process of restructuring which is under way in all fields of public life and of ever increasing socialist democracy based on self-management, a principle that is being applied both in the enterprises and in the territorial units.

These are the first elections to take place after the National Assembly approved the amendments to the electoral law, brought about by the new administrative and territorial division of the country. The regions were set up as qualitatively new administrative and territorial units and Parliament passed a declaration on the turning of the municipalities into self-managing communities. The town halls were given greater rights and responsibilities.

The new electoral law allows for an unlimited number of candidacies to be proposed and registered. They were proposed by political parties, public organizations and work-teams and discussed at meetings with the voters. The practice until recently also allowed the proposing of an unlimited number of candidates at the preelecti meetings but the latter then registered only one official candidate approved by the meetings.

Zhivkov, Leaders Voting Reported
AU281440 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Municipal elections are taking place today throughout the country. [passage omitted] Comrade Todor Zhivkov voted today in Sofia's Vuzrazhdane Municipality. Comrades Georgi Atanasov and Petur Tanchev voted in Sredets Municipality. The other members of the party and state leadership voted in various constituencies in Sofia and the country as follows: Comrade Grisha Filipov voted in Ruse; Comrade Dobri Dzhurov—in Sofia's Lozenets Municipality; Comrades Yordan Yotov, Pencho Kubadinski, Petur Mladenov, Stanko Todorov, and Chudomir Aleksandrov—in Oborishte Municipality; and Comrade Ognyan Doynov—in Chervena Zvezda Municipality. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister on Liberalizing Legal System
AU271650 Sofia BTA in English 1426 GMT 27 Feb 88

["Democratization of Bulgaria's Legal System"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 27 (BTA)—Today's ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME features an interview with Mrs Svetla Daskalova, minister of justice of Bulgaria, who dwells on the bills of amendments to the Penal Code, the Law of Bulgarian Citizenship and the Law of Passports for Travel Abroad. The latter are mainly related to the contacts between the people and the travel abroad of Bulgarian citizens.

The Bulgarian nationals who have travelled abroad legally but have not returned to the country will not be prosecuted. This will allow them to return and not to break up their contacts with Bulgaria. The law envisages the possibility of prosecuting those who have been employed in anti-Bulgarian activities or other crimes.

The amendments to the Law of the Bulgarian Citizenship allow the taking of foreign citizenship but at the same time keeping the Bulgarian one. The old law's requirement that all naturalized foreigners give up their previous citizenship when receiving their Bulgarian one will be refuted.

The amendments to the Law of Passports for Travel Abroad are aimed at facilitating the issuing of these passports and are based on the citizens' right to travel abroad. It will not be possible now for the authorities to unmotivatedly refuse to issue passports, as they will be compelled to examine the facts within the framework of the law only and will not be given the right to make decisions on the basis of their views of adequacy. Bulgarian citizens may be refused passports for travel abroad only in extreme cases, when the country's security and social order are threatened. The law envisages the issuing of passports for travel abroad valid for five years which will be kept by the citizens.

Mrs Daskalova says that the amendments will be discussed by the Council of Ministers and the standing commissions of the National Assembly.

Controversial Film Examines Sixties Unrest
AU271652 Sofia BTA in English 1316 GMT 27 Feb 88

["Nostalgia and Criticism: The Film "Yesterday"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 27 (BTA)—No other Bulgarian film has been the focus of so much discussion in recent years as "Yesterday," directed by Ivan Andonov. The theaters have been sold out for a month now and the views are as diverse as could be. The critics, in a rare show of unity, regard the film as a ray of hope for Bulgarian cinema which has been going through a difficult period over the past few years.

The film examines the late sixties, the age of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the sexual revolution and the youth unrest. The echoes of those moods, events and fashions resounds in a specific way in an English language boarding school in a provincial Bulgarian city, whose students are mainly children of highly placed officials. The teachers constantly remind their pupils that they have diplomatic or professional careers in store for them. At the same time, the young people are at that particular age when they feel serious doubts about the grown-ups' system of moral values and are prone to rebelling. The educational methods employed in the school are also a cause for protest. These are the hypocrisy of the teachers, their conservatism in respect to discipline and traditions, etc. It is under these conditions that the young people experience the first dramas in their lives, their first love, jealousy and small treacheries.

Sometimes funny, sometimes lyrical, nostalgic or sad, the film tries to draw the portrait of the late sixties generation. It is an analytical film which turns a critical eye at society and shows many of the reasons for the mistakes, doubts and concerns of today which have their roots in our past.

The film's impact is no less interesting. Protests, demands for censorship and even for banning the film came from several foreign language schools in the country. It was then that some alumni of these schools (now famous writers, philosophers, translators, journalists and

professional people) moved in to defend the truthfulness of the film and its writer Vlado Daverov (himself an ex-pupil of a language school) and the director.

The director Ivan Andonov, 54, is a very popular actor, painter, director and artist of animated films and a movie director. He started directing films in 1974. The best-known of them are "Roof", "Cherry Garden", "Ladies First", "White Magic" (silver prize in Cadiz, Spain, 1982) and "Dangerous Charm" (grand prix from the TV festival in Ciancano Terme, Italy, 1986).

Leaders' Public Appearances 19-26 Feb

AU271945 [Editorial Report] Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian in its newcasts, the Sofia press, and BTA during the 20-26 February monitoring period report the following public appearances of Bulgarian leaders (sourceline of each report given in parentheses):

Chudomir Aleksandrov, Dimitur Stoyanov, Georgi Yordanov, and Nacho Papazov attended a festive public rally held in Sofia on 22 February to mark the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Army. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 22 Feb)

The following leaders attended a reception in the Soviet Embassy in Sofia on 23 February to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army: Georgi Atanasov, Grisha Filipov, Milko Balev, Petur Tanchev, Chudomir Aleksandrov, Georgi Yordanov, Dimitur Stoyanov, Stoyan Markov, Nacho Papazov, Dimitur Stanishev, and Stoyan Mikhaylov. (Sofi Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 23 Feb)

Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, started talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou in Sofia on 22 February, (Sofia BTA in English 1858 GMT 22 Feb) and gave a dinner for him in Sofia on 22 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 22 Feb). He continued talks in Sofia with Papandreou on 23 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 23 Feb)

Georgi Atanasov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, co-chaired with Romanian Prime Minister Dascalescu the second session of the Special Bulgarian-Romanian Governmental Commission, held in Ruse on 20 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 20 Feb). Atanasov met visiting Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou at Sofia Airport on 22 February, (Sofia BTA in English 1636 GMT 22 Feb) and saw him off from Sofia Airport on 23 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 23 Feb) In Sofia on 23 February he chaired a national conference on construction. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 23 Feb) In Sofia on 25 February he received Valeriy Bykov, minister of the medical and microbiological industry of the USSR. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 25 Feb)

Chudomir Aleksandrov, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soviet Army Memorial in Sofia on 23 February to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 23 Feb) In Sofia on 26 February he received Kim Chong-suk, editor of the DPRK daily MINJU CHOSON. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2030 GMT 26 Feb)

Milko Balev, Politburo member and secretary of the BCP Central Committee, returned to Sofia on 22 February from Madrid, where he had been leading a BCP delegation to the Spanish Communist Party Congress. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 22 Feb) On 26 February he left Sofia for Prague at the head of a BCP Central Committee delegation. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Feb) Army General Dobri Dzhurov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense, received the visiting Soviet cosmonauts Aleksey Leonov and Oleg Makarov in Sofia on 19 February. (Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 20 Feb p 1, 2)

Petur Mladenov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, had meetings with Turkey's foreign minister, Mesut Yilmaz, in Belgrade on 23 February (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 23 Feb) and on 24 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 24 Feb) In Belgrade on 24 February he delivered a speech at the conference of the Balkan Countries' foreign ministers. (Sofia BTA in English 1710 GMT 24 Feb) In Belgrade Mladenov held meetings with the Greek and Romanian foreign ministers on 25 February, (Sofia BTA in English 1840 GMT 25 Feb) and with the SFRY foreign minister on 26 February. (Sofia BTA in English 1443 GMT 26 Feb) Stanko Todorov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the National Assembly, held meetings with President Mario Soares and others in Lisbon, where he was leading a National Assembly delegation, (Sofia BTA in English 1145 GMT 26 Feb) and returned from Lisbon to Sofia on 26 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 26 Feb)

Dimitur Stoyanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of internal affairs, also attended the wreath-laying ceremony at the Soviet Army Memorial in Sofia on 23 February. (Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 23 Feb)

Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, also received the visiting Soviet cosmonauts Leonov and Makarov in Sofia on 19 February. (Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 20 Feb p 1, 2)

Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, received a visiting delegation from the Palestinian Communist Party in Sofia on 23 February. (Sofia BTA in English 1829 GMT 23 Feb)

Prague TV Relays 1948 Anniversary Rally

AU261700 [Editorial Report] Prague Television Service in Czech and Slovak on 1350 GMT carries a 40-minute live relay from the Old Town Square in Prague of a "rally of the working people and youth of Prague and Central Bohemia" marking the 40th anniversary of Victorious February. The relay opens with TV reporters interviewing eye-witnesses of the 1948 events who attend the rally; at around 1355, members of the CPCZ leadership including Prague Party leader Kapek, CPCZ General Secretary Jakes, and President Husak are seen arriving on the stand, that had been mounted on one side of the square, to modest applause. Bird's-eye views of the square show it to be well-filled, although there appears to be room for many more people.

At around 1358 Jakes descends from the stand and greets the lined-up militia, public security crops, and army units. At 1400 GMT the national anthem is played, whereupon Prague Party leader Kapek officially opens the rally and greets the participants. Milos Jakes then delivers the main, approximately 20-minute speech [see 26 February East Europe DAILY REPORT, page 21], which is punctuated by polite applause.

Following Jakes' speech the Internationale is played and a 5-minute march of the assembled people's militia, public security corps, and army units past the stand begins. No bird's-eye views of the whole square are provided, but many spectators have left the square to make room for the marching units which entered from side streets (prior to the opening of the rally, these units had been shown standing in Parizska Street and other adjoining streets of the square).

The live relay ends at 1430 GMT with the camera showing Jakes and the other party leaders descending from the stand to modest applause and the moderator announcing that fireworks would be held in Prague later in the evening to mark the anniversary. The rally, scheduled to last 80 minutes, ends after 40 minutes. Snow fell throughout the rally.

Kapek Opening Remarks

LD251715 Prague Television Service in Czech 1350 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Opening speech by Antonin Kapek, member of the Presidium of the CPCZ Central Committee, at a rally in the Old Town Square in Prague to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Victorious February—live]

[Text] Dear Comrades: I am opening the demonstration of the working people, held in honor of 40th anniversary of the working people's victory. I cordially welcome among us a delegation of the CPCZ Central Committee, the National Front Central Committee, and the federal government, led by Comrade Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and chairman of the National Front Central Committee. [applause]

I cordially welcome you, militia men, members of the national security corps and of the Czechoslovak People's Army. I welcome you, working people of Prague and of Central Bohemian Region. We have assembled at the historical old town square, where during the eventful February days of 40 years ago Gottwalds' appeal calling for the unity and vigilance of the working people of our entire country was heard. By the firm action of the working class and all working people, under the leadership of the CPCZ, in February 1948 our peoples unquestionably took the path toward socialism.

Today also we recall the great role which, in February 1948, was played by the working class from Prague's first region. We proudly indentify ourselves with the revolutionary traditions of victorious February. We draw from them strength and experience during the implementation of the conclusions of the 17th party congress and the conclusions of the 7th session of the Central Committee.

Official Addresses Pacem in Terris Session

AU271719 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 25 Feb 88 p 4

[CTK report: "For the Attainment of World Peace"]

[Text] CTK—The Central Committee of the Pacem in Terris Association of Catholic Clergy in the Czech SR convened in Brno yesterday, with its chairman, Capitular Dean Vaclav Javurek, in the chair. The session was preceded by a visit of its members to the Agrokombinat Slusovice united agricultural cooperative on Tuesday [23 February]. They inspected the production plants and other facilities of this progressive enterprise.

At their session yesterday, members of the Central Committee of the Pacem in Terris Association of Catholic Clergy in the Czech SR heard a report on the association's activity since the last meeting. The main speech at the session, by Doctor Jiri Matejka from the Central Committee of the CSSR Union of Antifascist Fighters, was dedicated to the past 40 years of life in Czechoslovakia and to peace efforts in the world. Speakers in the discussion identified with the legacy of the victory of the Czechoslovak working people 40 years ago and with its implementation at present.

The Central Committee of the association approved the contents of forthcoming thematic seminars, which will be geared to the 25th anniversary of the world-famous Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) encyclical of Pope John 23d and the 25th anniversary of his death. Other seminars will concern the importance of the personality of the Blessed Agnes, daughter of Premysl Otakar I, and the association's rich publishing activity. In connection with its further activity in the Czech SR, the committee approved a recommendation on the contents of the association's regional plenary meetings.

The session was attended by Frantisek Jelinek, deputy minister of culture and director of the Secretariat for Church Affairs of the Government of the Czech SR. He conveyed to the Roman Catholic priests who are members of the Pacem in Terris Association of Catholic Clergy in the Czech SR thanks for their dedicated work for the attainment of a just world peace and for their candid, open words and suggestions concerning the solution of topical questions in relations between the state and the Roman Catholic Church, especially the filling of vacant bishoprics.

In this connection he stressed the continued validity of the resolution of all representatives of the Roman Catholic Church in the CSSR of 1977 that only the official Roman Catholic Church and the Vatican could serve as the state's partner in negotiations on church and religious issues.

Frantisek Jelinek, deputy minister of culture and director of the Secretariat for Church Affairs of the Government of the Czech SR, stressed that "some so-called initiatives we have been witnessing in the past days are not only inaccurate in explaining these issues, but, in their substance, damage them."

Vaclavik Lauds February Victory, USSR Army
LD262323 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] A festive meeting of members of the Federal National Defense Ministry and the Main Political Administation of the Czechoslovak People's Army was held in Prague today on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Victorious February and the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Army General Milan Vaclavik, minister of national defense, recalled in his address the significance of the heritage of Victorious February for the present. He said that members of the Czechoslovak People's Army implement it while increasing combat and mobilization readiness of the units and formations of our Army.

Fojtik Attends Soviet Embassy Victory Event
LD250416 Prague Television Service in Czech 2125 GMT 24 Feb 88

[From the "actuality" program]

[Text] The 40th anniversary of the February Victory was marked today at the Soviet Embassy in Prague by a festive gathering of Soviet collectives. The gathering was addressed by Comrade Jan Fojtik. Also present was Viktor Lomakin, the Soviet ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

Commander of Central USSR Forces on Army Day
AU251324 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Feb 88 p 4

[Article by Lieutenant General Eduard Vorobyev, commander of the Central Group of Soviet Forces: "The 70th Anniversary of the Birth of the Soviet Army and Navy: Guarding Peace and Socialism"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The profound changes currently under way in Soviet society and the Armed Forces have also fundamentally affected the forces of the Central Group. An atmosphere of mutual openness, principledness, and creativity is being ever more emphatically asserted in its formations and units; phenomena of stagnation and everything that thus far constitutes a braking mechanism are being overcome with ever increasing determination. The struggle for a high degree of combat readiness has now become the concern of the majority of commanders and political workers of the Central Group of forces. Our soldiers welcome the anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces with new successes in combat readiness and political preparedness.

As always, Communists and Komsomol members are the vanguard of those taking part in competition. Sons and grandsons of frontline soldiers carry high the baton of combat heroism, and expand the traditions of the USSR Armed Forces by their deeds. For example, the name of Captain O. Sidorov, commander of a mechanized infantry company, is well known to the soldiers of the Central Group Forces. The unit he commands was proclaimed the best in the detachment. In that detachment there prevails firm internal order, firm discipline, and good organization. Oleg Sidorov, grandson of a frontline soldier who fell liberating Prague, has got used to exerting all his energies in his work. He demands the same of his subordinates. [passage omitted]

Long and firm ties of friendship unite the soldiers of the Central group of forces and the members of the Czechoslovak People's Army. The combat bonds between the fraternal nations and between their armies steeled in combat are being cemented in the course of joint exercises and training. The Druzhba'87 exercise, held last July, has become a real school of combat skill and combat brotherhood. It demonstrated our troops' high-grade training, their readiness and ability to defend the achievements of socialism and to oppose any aggressor.

The Soviet Armed Forces have been vigilantly guarding socialism for 70 years now. Together with the fraternal armies of the Warsaw Pact member states they are a reliable guarantor of world peace.

Chnoupek Receives USSR's Adamishin
LD262033 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1700 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek met today in Cernin Palace in Prague with Anatoliy Adamishin,

Soviet deputy foreign minister, who is in Czechoslovakia on a working visit. Both statesmen discussed some matters of current international relations.

Strougal, Silayev Discuss Nuclear Cooperation

AU260947 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 23 Feb 88 p 1

[CTK report: "L. Strougal Received I. Silayev; Need For Close Cooperation Between the CSSR and the USSR Engineering Complexes"]

[Text] Prague—CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal received Ivan Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Council of Ministers Bureau for Engineering, at Prague Hrzane Palace on Monday [22 February] evening. Ivan Silayev is paying a 3-day working visit to the CSSR.

In the course of a longer talk, the two representatives briefed one another on the state and course of economic reforms in their two countries, on their political aspects and the need to assert them as a component of national restructuring. In this connection, he underscored the necessity of close cooperation and modern collaboration between the entire CSSR and USSR engineering complexes. Ivan Silayev further informed the CSSR Premier about the course of the latest plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee. In connection with the preparations for the prolonging the Program of CSSR-USSR Cooperation in the Development of Nuclear Energy Through the Year 2000, Lubomir Strougal expressed the wish of the Czechoslovak Government to accelerate the work on the new generation of reactors for nuclear power plants which counts on Czechoslovak participation and will lead to reduced investment costs and improved technical-economic parameters, including safety parameters. Ivan Silayev underscored the necessity of restructuring bilateral relations, especially between the enterprises of our countries. In this connection, he noted that among the CEMA countries we are furthest ahead, which enables us to make the cooperation of the two economies more streamlined and more dynamic.

The reception was attended by CSSR Deputy Premier Ladislav Gerle. Viktor Lomakin, USSR ambassador to the CSSR, was also present.

Engineering Protocol Signed

LD241832 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1600 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The 12th session of the Czechoslovak and Soviet Government commissioners responsible for implementing the nuclear power engineering cooperation program up to the year 2000, and a session on the further development of engineering cooperation has ended in Prague with the signing of a protocol. Here is a report from Jana Havligerova:

[Havligerova] After the protocol was signed, journalists were briefed on the session by Ladislav Gerle, federal deputy premier, and by Ivan Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Council of Ministers Bureau for Machine Building. Both agreed in stressing that engineering cooperation would continue to hold the leading place in Czechoslovak-Soviet relations, but there would be more consistent orientation toward greater specialization, both in general engineering and in the electrical engineering and electronics industry. This is aimed, for example, at narrowing down the untenably wide range of engineering goods manufactured in our country. At the same time, it is intended to develop direct contacts between both countries' economic organizations as quickly as possible. As far as nuclear power engineering cooperation goes, this will focus above all on issues of operational safety of nuclear energy-generating facilities and on the development of a new generation of nuclear power stations.

Bilak, Central Committee Delegation in Cuba

For reportage of the official visit to Cuba by a Communist Party Central Committee delegation, headed by Central Committee Secretary Vasil Bilak, see the Caribbean division, Cuba subdivision, of the 26 February Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Cross-Border Traffic Rule To Take Effect

LD261805 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1530 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 26 Feb (ADN)—A GDR Government representative informed the (West) Berlin Senate representative that the extended possibilities for travel and visitor's traffic promised by the GDR in the talk between Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, and Eberhard Diepgen, governing mayor of Berlin (West), on 11 February, will come into force on 1 March.

This means, among other things, that the length of stay permitted for permanent residents of Berlin (West) on day trips to the GDR capital, Berlin, will be extended up to midnight, of the day after entry. Entry and exit for these days trips is possible exclusively via the border crossing points of Friedrichstrasse railway station, Bornholmer Strasse, Chausseestrasse, Invalidenstrasse, Oberbaumbruecke, and Sonnenallee. The obligatory minimum exchange rate for 2 days will be levied. Unused money can, as before, be deposited in relevant GDR financial institutions.

Goetting Addresses Presidium on Disarmament

AU261425 East Berlin NEUE ZEIT in German 23 Feb 88 p 3

["From the speech" of Gerald Goetting, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union, at a session of the Main Executive Committee Presidium in Berlin on 22 February: "With Joint Responsibility for a World With Fewer and Fewer Weapons"]

[Excerpts] Since Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan signed the agreement on the elimination of the Soviet and U.S. intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in Washington, two and a half months have gone by. What we noted at that time in our first assessments has been confirmed over this past period: The results of the summit between the CPSU Central Committee secretary and the U.S. President are of a truly historic nature. The summit opened up a totally new chapter in the history of the struggle of peace-loving mankind for disarmament and detente.

A change for the better is now starting after years of increasing confrontation, a steadily accelerating arms race, and rising tensions. [passage omitted]

When the agreement on the INF Treaty was signed last December, a sigh of relief rippled through the world. All people who have been advocating a halt to the arms race for years—Marxists, Christians, peace activists of any political, ideological, or religious movement—feel encouraged and justified in having new hopes. In many respects, tensions and distrust in East-West relations are giving way to detente and new trust. A changed political climate in the world is beginning to make gradual progress and in some cases it has had a promising effect on the efforts to eliminate hotbeds of crisis and settle conflicts.

The precondition for the conclusion of the Washington treaty was—and this is the most important lesson for the future—recognizing the realities of today's world: a world in which all peoples increasingly depend on each other and have to rely on each other. Mankind is faced with an inescapable alternative: Either the peoples will perish in a nuclear inferno, or the states learn to live together peacefully, in spite of their differences. This is the main issue of our time.

It was possible to sign the Washington agreement—and this is another important lesson from its conclusion—because good will on both sides, understanding for the other's legitimate interests, and joint efforts for acceptable compromises won over old-established cliches.

Just like all the citizens of our state, every one of us, dear friends, has made his contribution to bringing about the results of the Washington summit. With its specific means and possibilities, the GDR has actively contributed to defusing international contradictions, to radically reducing military confrontation, and to creating security by means of disarmament. It has energetically accepted its joint responsibility for peace in order to overcome conflicts and to establish a balance of interests between states with different social systems and alliance memberships. Let us recall:

—More than 5 years ago, when NATO started to deploy nuclear intermediate-range missiles in five West European member countries and the temperature in the international atmosphere seemed to have fallen to zero, it was Erich Honecker who gave new stimuli to the struggle for security and detente with his appeal "Struggle for Peace—Now More Than Ever!"

—Our republic, together with other states and social forces, promoted the international discussion on ways toward military and political stability on our continent with specific proposals, such as those for a nuclear-free corridor and a chemical-weapon-free zone in the heart of Europe.

—Our country will do everything in its power to implement the Washington treaty and to pave the way for further agreements. The most recent convincing proof of this is the agreement with the Soviet party and state leadership to withdraw earlier than planned the nuclear shorter- and intermediate-range missiles that are deployed on GDR territory. As is known, preparations for this have already been started, even though the treaty between the USSR and the United States has not yet been ratified and implemented.

—We Christian Democrats actively support the International Meeting for Nuclear-Free Zones, which will take place under the auspices of Erich Honecker in Berlin on 20-22 June 1988. We are convinced that the appeal of the National Committee for its preparation will meet with a vivid response and agreement from Christian-Democratic politicians and people from churches and religious communities in our country and on all continents. [passage omitted]

Class differences, and thus also ideological differences in opinion, cannot be removed by means of discussion; but it is necessary and possible to deal with each other in such a way that the general human interests of peace and security are not endangered and that solving our current global problems is promoted.

Doing everything to make peace more secure is also the most important thing in shaping the relations between the two German states. The supreme principle must be: Never again war, but only peace from German soil! The nature of bilateral relations between the GDR and the FRG has an essential influence on the situation in Europe. Both German states can make a particularly important contribution to further consolidating peace on our continent. All opportunities for this must be exploited. This is the meaning of the proposals made by Erich Honecker in his letter to Chancellor Kohl on 16 December 1987.

It is and remains our principle: No arms buildup, but disarmament! We do not succumb to the illusion that this principle can be implemented only in the struggle against those interested in armamen. The Washington treaty removes the intermediate-range missiles, but not the military-industrial complex, which continues to count on nuclear deterrence, military superiority, and the policy of strength.

The socialist states, on the other hand, adhere to the belief that the disarmament measures that have already been agreed must not be compensated by new armament in other fields, but must be continued with new initiatives. The ideal of socialism continues to be to establish a nuclear-free world and security without violence for all. This goal unites all peace forces—Marxists, Christians, and bourgeois pacifists—in short, all who are concerned about peace on earth.

We in the GDR have always been guided by this principle in the coexistence of all humanist forces. Especially in our country, we have had decades of experiences in the growing and maturing of this cooperation. It is based on the firm foundations of the socialist social conditions, which are the joint work of the members of all classes and strata and the representatives of different ideologies and denominations. Together we have accomplished our achievements: our peace state, the high results of the economic and social policy, the values of socialist culture, and our country's foreign policy successes. Marxists and Christians and all citizens of our state are interested in safeguarding these achievements, in preserving peace, and in increasing public welfare. [passage omitted]

The attitude of the social forces and state organs has always been determined by the striving for having relations with the churches characterized in all fields by impartiality, openness, and trust. The work of all forces of the National Front has always aimed at winning over more and more Christian citizens to work for our state's consistent peace policy and to commit themselves in joint work for the welfare of the people. This is alliance policy in action, this is a specific contribution to the steadily deepening political-moral unity of our people. [passage omitted]

To actively participate in shaping social life is one of man's basic rights that can be unrestrictedly implemented only by socialism. On the other hand, socialist society is doing everything so that the individuality of its members can fully develop.

Our Constitution guarantees more than 40 basic rights and these are implemented in social practice—from the free development of man, respect for his dignity, respect for and protection of his personality, and equality regardless of nationality, race, ideology, or religious denomination to freedom of conscience and religion. Freedom of religion must not be confused with attempts to question basic principles of our society or basic characteristics of our state's policy.

How the much-quoted human rights are implemented in nonsocialist countries is felt by, for instance, those Christian figures in the FRG who are prohibited from exercising their profession or are imprisoned because they have been actively working for peace and disarmament. They come up hard against the limits of the so-called "freedom for others to think differently" that is mentioned so often by some people over there.

Furthermore, the attempt to contrast social and individual human rights is impossible in principle. The right to work, for instance, is indisputably a human right of a socioeconomic character; but mass unemployment and "new poverty" have deep effects on the personal sphere of the people affected. For a homeless person the individual right to freedom of movement is an illusion in any case, as is the individual right to access to cultural assets for an illiterate person. The supreme human right, the right to peace, is both a social and an individual right; as is known, human rights can be exercised only by the living.

Humanist Forces Receive Strong Support From Socialism [subhead]

Secure peace needs strong socialism. This insight has repeatedly proved true over the 7 decades since the establishment of the world's first socialist state and over the almost 4 decades since the founding of the GDR.

Since the establishment of socialism as a social system, and as the working people's will to peace and progress personified as a state, the hopes for peace of all humanist forces on earth have received strong support. [passage omitted]

Honecker Meets Finnish Communist Party Chief

LD290954 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0917 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 29 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, received Arvo Aalto, chairman of the Communist Party of Finland, for a talk in the Central Committee Building in Berlin this morning. The party chairman arrived yesterday in Berlin for a visit to the GDR at Honecker's invitation.

South African Attacks on Angola Denounced

AU251723 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 23 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—The attacks by South African fighter planes on the Angolan villages of Ondjiva and Lubango are a dangerous escalation of Pretoria's policy of aggression and destabilization against Angola. This was stated by Ambassador Wolfgang Meyer, spokesman of the GDR Foreign Ministry, in an interview with ADN.

Pretoria's actions represents a flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 602/87 of 25 November 1987 which calls for an immediate end to all acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and the unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory. This attack as well as the other military actions that have recently been increased by South Africa in the south and southeast of the republic are most strongly condemned by the GDR.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out during the recent visit to Luanda by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar the Government of the People's Republic of Angola presented new proposals that are characterized by the serious desire to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the conflict and which take into account the interests of the parties concerned. The GDR welcomes and supports these proposals. It emphatically calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of African troops from Angola. The GDR will continue to fully support the Angolan people, the spokesman said in conclusion.

Mugabe Receives Finance Minister Hofner

MB241234 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The president, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who is also the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, says there is now greater optimism for the achievement of world peace than ever before. He was speaking when he received the visiting minister of finance from the German Democratic Republic, GDR, Comrade Ernst Hofner, in Harare today. Comrade Mugabe said great strides have been made between the East and the West to reduce world tension. He said he had followed the recent visit to the FRG by the GDR leader, Comrade Erich Honecker, with much interest.

Honecker Greets CSSR Leaders on Anniversary

AU261447 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 25 Feb 88 p 1

[ND item: "GDR Greets CSSR on 40th Anniversary of February Victory"]

[Text] East Berlin (ND)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, has sent the following telegram to Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, and to CSSR President Gustav Husak:

Esteemed Comrades:

I convey to you, the CPCZ Central Committee, and the people of the CSSR fraternal greetings and cordial congratulations of the SED Central Committee, the State Council, and the GDR people on the 40th anniversary of the victory of the CSSR working people over reaction.

The historical victory of the CSSR working people in February 1948, which finally opened up the path toward socialism in the CSSR, was the result of the creative application of Marxism-Leninism by the CPCZ under the leadership of Klement Gottwald to the country's specific historical conditions.

Over the past 40 years the CSSR workers' class, in alliance with all progress forces of the country and under the leadership of its Communist Party, has achieved profound social changes and has established a developed socialist state with high international attractiveness. Based on the decisions of the 17th CPCZ Congress, the CSSR—in close alliance with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community—is successfully advancing in the further building of socialism.

With its steadfast policy that is aimed at peace and detente, the CSSR is making an internationally recognized contribution to bringing about specific disarmament measures. The joint initiatives of our two states to establish a nuclear-free and chemical-weapon-free zone in central Europe, which have met with worldwide support, have proved highly suitable to promote nuclear disarmament and to achieve progress in the conventional field.

We note with pleasure and satisfaction that the relations between our two parties, states, and peoples are experiencing overall further development. Rest assured, dear Comrades, that the GDR will continue to do everything in its power to further consolidate the alliance, fraternal friendship, and trusting cooperation between our peoples.

I wish you, dear Comrades, the workers class, and all the CSSR working people new successes in the further building of socialism.

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council.

CSSR Ambassador Decorates Workers Militia

AU252023 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 23 Feb 88 p 2

[Excerpt] East Berlin (ADN)—In Berlin on Monday [22 February] members of the workers militia and of other armed organs of the GDR received CSSR orders, which were awarded to them by the CPCZ Central Committee and the government of the fraternal country on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the February Revolution and the founding of the people's militia. Those decorated included numerous working people who had accomplished outstanding performances at their places of work and in the training of the workers militia. In the presence of Egon Krenz, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, CSSR Ambassador Pavel Sadovsky presented the medals and documents as well as honorary flags to seven units of the workers militia. Also present were Central Committee members Army General Friedrich Dieckel, minister of the Interior and head of the German People's Police, Wolfgang Herger, director of the SED Central Committee Security Department, and Herbert Krolikowski, state secretary and first deputy minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

SED CC Greets Spanish CP Leaders on Election

AU251724 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 24 Feb 88 p 2

[ND item: "Congratulations to the Party Leaders of the Spanish Communist Party"]

[Text] East Berlin (ND)—The SED Central Committee has sent the following congratulatory telegram, signed by General Secretary Erich Honecker, to Julio Anguita, general secretary of the Spanish Communist Party [PCE]:

Dear Comrade Julio Anguita:

On behalf of the SED Central Committee and on my own behalf I most cordially congratulate you on your election as PCE general secretary.

It is my firm conviction that the fraternal relations between our two parties will continue to successfully develop and deepen in the interest of our common cause of peace, democracy, and social progress.

With communist greetings,

SED Central Committee

E. Honecker, general secretary.

Erich Honecker sent an identical telegram to Dolores Ibarruri, who has been reelected PCE chairwoman.

Sindermann Meets People's Representatives

AU261445 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 25 Feb 88 p 2

[Excerpts] Meiningen (ND dispatch)—Since Wednesday [24 February] a work group of the GDR State Council headed by Horst Sindermann, deputy chairman of the State Council and member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, has been studying experiences and results of local people's representative bodies in Meiningen Kreis in implementing the decisions of the 13th Peasants' Congress. [passage omitted]

"The 13th Peasants' Congress decided to steadily improve the living conditions of the cooperative peasants, while raising agricultural production," Horst Sindermann stressed at an exchange of experiences with deputies of the Kaltensundheim municipal representation. This is done mainly through cooperation between the local people's representative bodies and the agricultural enterprises to establish more productive and beautiful villages, where people work and live well, engage in cultural activities, and participate in all decisions on the shaping of the villages. In this way Kaltensundheim has made an important contribution to solving the housing problem, to beautifying the village, and to enriching the citizens' intellectual-cultural and athletic life, Horst Sindermann noted. Here precise coordination of the concepts for the shaping of the village with the development of agriculture has proved its worth in systematically using material and financial means and possibilities for the people's daily life, Sindermann said. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended by Hans Albrecht, first secretary of the Suhl Bezirk SED leadership, and Arnold Zimmermann, chairman of the Bezirk Council.

Honecker Visits Potsdam Synthetic Fiber Plant

LD251112 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0922 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Potsdam, 25 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, was given a warm welcome this morning by the workers at the state synthetic fiber works in Premnitz (Potsdam Area). A new, high-performance Wolpryla plant will start production today. The fully automated plant, part of a central youth project, is based on a process that determines world standards, developed by close cooperation between science and production, for which 100 patents were given. The textile industry makes clothes, furniture fabrics, yarns, and imitation furs from Wolpryla fibers.

There will be a rally at midday at the factory.

Honecker Presents Awards to Army

LD262012 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1449 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 26 Feb (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee, chairman of the GDR State Council and chairman of the GDR National Defense Council, presented the Scharnhorst Order to meritorious members of the National People's Army, promoted generals and appointed colonels to major general.

He conferred the Scharnhorst order on retired Lieutenant General Guenther Bormann, Lieutenant General Ulrich Gall, Major General Rolf Fischer, Major General Siegfried Graefe, and the "Peter Goering" training establishment of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Training.

Major Generals Wolfgang Kaiser, Horst Sylla, and Manfred Volland were promoted to lieutenant general.

Colonels Kurt Bernhagen, Rainer Duerichen, Lothar Engelhardt, Werner Freitag, Wolfgang Gruschke, Johannes Kaden, Waldeman Kiesewalter, Georg Moewes, Rolf Pitschel and Bernd Schwipper were appointed major general, and naval Captain Hans Partzsch was appointed rear admiral.

The ceremony was attended by Egon Krenz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee; Army General Heinz Kessler, minister of national defense; Colonel General Fritz Streletz, secretary of the GDR National Defense Council; and Wolfgang Herger, director of the SED Central Committee Security Department.

Leaders Public Appearances 10-17 Feb

AU191458 [Editorial Report] East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German from 11 to 18 February reports the following public appearances of GDR leaders (date of publication in parentheses):

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council; the Politburo members Hermann Axen, Central Committee secretary; Hans-Joachim Boehme, first secretary of the Halle Bezirk leadership; Horst Dohlus, Central Committee secretary; Werner Eberlein, first secretary of the Magdeburg Bezirk leadership; Werner Felfe, Central Committee secretary; Kurt Hager, Central Committee secretary; Joachim Herrmann, Central Committee secretary; Werner Jarowinsky, Central Committee secretary; Egon Krenz, Central Committee secretary; Werner Krolikowski, first deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; Siegfried Lorenz, first secretary of the Karl-Marx-Stadt Bezirk leadership; Guenter Mittag, Central Committee secretary; Erich Mueckenberger, chairman of the Central Party Control Commission; Guenter Schabowski, Central Committee secretary and first secretary of the Berlin Bezirk leadership; Harry Tisch, chairman of the FDGB National Executive Council; the Politburo candidate members Ingrid Lange, Central Committee secretary; Gerhard Mueller, first secretary of the Erfurt Bezirk leadership; and Werner Walde, first secretary of the Cottbus Bezirk leadership, attended the meeting of the SED Central Committee Secretariat with the first secretaries of the kreis leaderships in Berlin on 12 February (13-14 February, p 1).

Kurt Hager, Werner Krolikowski, and Guenter Schabowski, members of the SED Central Committee Politburo, attended the inauguration of the Brecht memorial in Berlin on 10 February (11 February, p 1).

The Politburo members Werner Eberlein, first secretary of the Magdeburg Bezirk leadership, and Egon Krenz, SED Central Committee secretary, attended the opening performance of the Festival of the Political Song on 14 February in Berlin (15 February, p 1).

Horst Dohlus and Egon Krenz, members of the SED Central Committee Politburo and Central Committee secretaries, and Alfred Neumann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, conveyed the birthday congratulations of the SED Central Committee Politburo to Kurt Seibt, chairman of the Solidarity Committee and chairman of the Central Auditing Commission, in Berlin on 15 February (16 February, p 2).

Hermann Axen, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, chaired the session of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Chamber in Berlin on 17 February (18 February, p 2).

Werner Eberlein, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Magdeburg Bezirk leadership, visited the Wasmerslage Young Cattle Breeding Interenterprise Facility on 10 February (11 February, p 2).

Kurt Hager, Politburo member and SED Central Committee secretary, held a talk with He Dongchang, member of the CPC Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the PRC National Academic Degrees Committee, in Berlin on 11 February (12 February, p 2).

Kurt Hager conveyed the birthday congratulations of the SED Central Committee to Ursula Ragwitz, director of the Culture Department of the Central Committee, in Berlin on 15 February (16 February, p 2).

Werner Krolikowski, first deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, received Serban Teodorescu, minister of the machine building industry of the SR of Romania, in Berlin on 10 February (11 February, p 4).

Siegfried Lorenz, Politburo member and first secretary of the Karl-Marx-Stadt Bezirk leadership, attended the bezirk leadership meeting in Karl-Marx-Stadt on 17 February (18 February, p 1).

Guenter Mittag, Politburo member and Central Committee Secretary, conveyed the birthday congratulations of the SED Central Committee Politburo to Erhard Schulze, deputy director of the Central Committee Trade Unions and Social Policy Department, in Berlin on 15 February (16 February, p 2).

Gerhard Mueller, candidate member of the Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Erfurt Bezirk leadership, attended the party aktiv conference of the Seebach Machine Factory on 15 February (16 February, p 2).

Alfred Neumann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, attended the reception of Dr Hamid Reza Asefi, Iranian ambassador to the GDR, in Berlin on 10 February (11 February, p 2).

Guenter Schabowski, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, attended the best workers' meeting in Berlin on 10 February (11 February, p 2).

Guenter Schabowski, first secretary of the Berlin Bezirk leadership, attended the bezirk leadership meeting in Berlin on 15 February (16 February, p 1).

Guenter Schabowski addressed social scientists at the Berlin Humboldt University on 17 February (18 February, p 8).

18-24 February

AU261735 [Editorial Report] East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German from 19 to 25 February reports the following public appearances of GDR leaders (date of publication in parentheses):

The following GDR leaders attended a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy in Berlin on 19 February: members and candidate members of the SED Central Committee Politburo Hermann Axen, Werner Felfe, Joachim Herrmann, Guenther Kleiber, Egon Krenz, Werner Krolikowski, Army General Erich Mielke, Erich Mueckenberger, and Inge Lange. (20-21 February, p 1)

The following GDR leaders attended a wreath-laying ceremony for fallen Soviet soldiers in Berlin on 23 February: members and candidate members of the SED Central Committee Politburo Hermann Axen, Horst Dohlus, Werner Felfe, Joachim Herrmann, Guenther Kleiber, Egon Krenz, Werner Krolikowski, Army General Erich Mielke, Erich Mueckenberger, Inge Lange, and Gerhard Schuerer. (24 February, p 1)

Werner Eberlein, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Magdeburg SED Bezirk leadership, visited an art exhibition in Magdeburg on 18 February. (19 February, p 4) Werner Eberlein attended an SED bezirk leadership meeting in Magdeburg on 19 February. (20-21 February, p 2) Werner Eberlein attended a meeting of the Bezirk Executive Committee of the Union of Small Gardeners, Settlers, and Small Livestock Breeders in Magdeburg on 24 February. (25 February, p 2)

Kurt Hager, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, personally presented birthday congratulations to SED Central Committee member Moritz Mebel in Berlin on 23 February. (24 February, p 2)

Army General Heinz Kessler, minister of national defense, presented awards to functionaries of the Society for Sports and Technology in Berlin on 23 February. (24 February, p 2)

Egon Krenz, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, attended the final event of the 18th Festival of Political Songs in Berlin on 21 February. (22 February, p 1)

Army General Erich Mielke, minister of state security attended the USSR Army anniversary meeting in Wuensdorf on 21 February. (22 February, p 2)

Horst Sindermann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the GDR State Council, attended a meeting of deputies from local people's representative bodies in Meiningen on 24 February. (25 February, p 2)

Soviet Union's Gromyko Continues Visit

Comments on Meetings

LD261948 Budapest MTI in English
1820 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 26 (Mti)—As reported earlier, Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Committee of the CPSU CC and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, who is on an official friendship visit to Hungary, saw the headquarters of the Videoton Electronics Factory in Szekesfehervar on Friday. The Soviet politician was accompanied by Karoly Nemeth, member of the HSWP Political Committee and president of the Presidential Council. Present were Sandor Rajnai, ambassador of Hungary to the Soviet Union, and Boris Stukalin, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Hungary.

The high-ranking Soviet politician and its party were shortly briefed on Fejer County, which has a population of 425,000, and on the work of Videoton.

Andrey Gromyko expressed his thanks for the warm and friendly welcome. This was another sign that the two countries are tied by the indissoluble bonds of fraternal friendship, he said. Andrey Gromyko then reiterated his statement at the Thursday session of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Hungarian Parliament that sober-minded people all over the world hold it a-priority to preserve peace. To this effect the Soviet leaders, who also rely on the cooperation of the socialist countries, sit with patience to the negotiating table with their western partners.

In conclusion Andrey Gromyko emphasized that he would return to his country with the awareness that the Soviet Union and Hungary continue to advance socialist construction in close unity with the relations of the two countries further developing in all walks of life.

Andrey Gromyko's visit to Szekesfehervar ended with a factory visit.

Joint Communique Issued

LD262023 Budapest MTI in English
1720 GMT 26 Feb 88

["Joint Communique on Andrey Gromyko's Visit—(Full Text)"—MTI headline]

[Text] Budapest, February 26 (MTI)—Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union, paid an official friendly visit to the Hungarian People's Republic from February 23 to 27, 1988 on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Janos Kadar, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, met Andrey Gromyko. They informed each other on the socio-economic development of their countries and exchanged views on issues of Hungarian-Soviet relations and international life.

Andrey Gromyko held talks with Karoly Nemeth, member of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, and Karoly Grosz, member of the HSWP Political Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic. He delivered a speech at the session of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic, laid a wreath on the Hungarian Heroes' Monument, on the Soviet Heroes' Monument at Szabadsag Square and on the Dozsa Gyorgy Street Statue of V.I. Lenin. He paid a visit to the Videoton company of Szekesfehervar in Fejer County.

At the talks and meetings, held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and mutual comradely understanding, detailed information was given on restructuring in the Soviet Union and the implementation of reforms in Hungary. The negotiating parties confirmed the identity of views on topical issues of social development and international politics. They expressed the conviction that the tasks marked out by the HSWP and the CPSU give further impetus to socialist building work in their countries.

The parties stressed the accordance of the restructuring process in the Soviet Union and the aims and tasks of the stabilization and advance programe of the Hungarian people's Republic, which offers a new opportunity for the extensive development of Hungarian-Soviet relations and serves the causes of socialism and social progress. They noted with satisfaction that the fraternal friendship and many-sided coopepration of the two countries and peoples have reached a high level and are successfully developing in keeping with the friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance treaty.

Large-scale commemorations were held in both countries to mark the 40th anniversary of the signing of the document.

Both sides took the stand that inter-party and inter-state cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other fields is to be further developed in the spirit of the principal agreements reached at the talks between Janos Kadar and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The sides emphasized the particular importance of the fact that increasing the efficiency of technical and scientific cooperation, introducing the modern forms of cooperation, production cooperation and specialization, the founding of joint ventures and the exchanges of experiences alike serve the exploration and utilization of experiences. They noted the importance of further

streamlining cooperation realized in the framework of the council for mutual economic assistance, and the activity carried out in the organization.

The sides considered the Soviet cultural days held in Hungary on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution as an outstanding event of the cultural cooperation of the two countries. They spoke with appreciation about the direct and expanding relations between the cultural, scientific and educational institutions of the two countries, and consider it of outstanding importance that a Hungarian cultural, scientific and information centre is to be shortly opened in Moscow, and a centre for Hungarian sciences is to be set up at the Uzhgorod University. These will serve to strengthen the friendship of the peoples of the two countries, and mutual intellectual augmentation.

The sides took a stand for the further wide-ranging deepening of friendly relations between the republics, the counties and cities, increasing the efficiency of these, developing limitrophe cooperation, and extending the direct relations between the workers.

It is the firm resolution of Hungary and the Soviet Union to continue to exert close international cooperation and to intensify their efforts to radically improve the general political climate, avert the nuclear danger, establish the comprehensive system of international peace and security, to continue the constructive political dialogue between the states, and cooperation based on reciprocal interests.

The sides stressed the historical importance of the agreement to eliminate the Soviet and the American medium and shorter-range missiles, which proves there can be a shift from the arms race towards complete nuclear disarmament. An outstanding step on this road would be the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on the 50 per cent reduction of strategic weapons, alongside the continued observation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty signed in 1972 in a way that neither side abrogates it until the coordinated date.

Both sides voiced the conviction: It would be important that no steps be taken which would prevent the implementation of the disarmament treaties and agreements, or the coming into existence of others. In this relation, serious problems are caused by statements made by certain representatives of the West, which reflect the intention to counter-balance the U.S. missiles to be abolished in Europe under the agreement on medium and short range missiles by the modernization and increase of nuclear and other weapons.

The sides hold it of particular importance to successfully complete as soon as possible the Soviet-American talks aimed at restricting and discontinuing nuclear testing, and the many-sided talks on the complete and comprehensive banning of chemical weapons.

In the interest of advancing the European disarmament process, reducing the level of military confrontation, and strengthening confidence and good neighbourliness between the states, it is the firm intention of the sides to attain the considerable reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons deployed in Europe, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Urals, following the jointly elaborated guideline of the Warsaw Treaty member states and in the spirit of the Budapest appeal.

Both sides took a stand to conclude the Vienna follow-up meeting of states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe with major agreements that can be mutually accepted, and which aim at deepening the all-European process on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act in the full range of political, economic and humanitarian issues.

The sides reconfirmed their readiness to promote the just settlement through negotiations of the regional conflicts and hotbeds of tension that exist in the various regions of the world. The Hungarian side welcomes and considers as the manifestation of the new political way of thinking the statement of Mikhail Gorbachev on February 8, 1988, which opens the way to the political settlement of the situation that has come about regarding Afghanistan.

Hungary and the Soviet Union took a stand to further increase the role of the United Nations in the interest that the world organization become the effective means of peace nad international security.

At the talks the sides noted with satisfaction that relations between the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, and the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic an the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union are developing fruitfully. Efforts will continue to be made to further develop and increase the efficiency of these relations. The sides voiced their interest in holding extensive exchanges of views on the fundamental issues of legislation and the development of socialist democracy. In the interest of these aims, further exchanges of parliamentary delegations and groups of representatives are to be held. the Sides agreed to exchange publications and information materials.

The sides hold it important to continue the activity aimed at developing bilateral and many-sided cooperation of the parliaments of the socialist countries.

Hungary and the Soviet Union attach major importance to parliamentary cooperation with all countries, in the interest of disarmament, and the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons and violence, and the solution of the global problems which affect all humanity.

During the visit an agreement was signed between the Governments of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the setting up and the activity of the Cultural, Scientific and Information Centre of the Hungarian People's Republic in the Soviet Union. The 1988 work plan for cooperation between the federation of writers of the Soviet Union and the Hungarian Federation of Writers was also signed.

The visit to the Hungarian People's Republic of Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, contributed to further strengthening Hungarian-Soviet relations, and expressed the mutual efforts aimed at the dynamic development of cooperation between the two countries.

Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, invited Karoly Nemeth, member of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and president of the Presidental Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, for an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union. Karoly Nemeth accepted the invitation.

Press Conference Held

LD270009 Budapest MTI in English
2146 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 26 (MTI)—The Friday events of Andrey Gromyko's visit ended with an international press conference at the Budapest House of Culture and Science. Vadim Loginov, Vladimir Karpov, Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the institute for world Economy and international relations of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and Vsevolod Parkhitko, the personal secretary of Andrey Gromyko, answered the questions concerning almost all spheres of the Soviet internal and foreign policy.

The issues raised at the press conference included the withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed abroad, the model value of the reform attempts of the socialist countries, the role of writers in Perestroyka, the Yerevan demonstration of Armenian nationalists, and the evaluation of the recent meeting in Yugoslavia of the foreign ministers of the Balkan states. Details follow.

As reported earlier, the Friday events of Andrey Gromyko's visit ended with an international press conference. Vsevolod Parkhitko summed up the events of Andrey Gromyko's daily programme, then Vadim Loginov answered a question related to the withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed abroad. He said that the principled position of the Soviet Union has not changed on this issue. According to its repeated proposals, the Soviet Union is prepared to agree, on the basis of reciprocality, on the withdrawal of its troops and weapons stationed abroad and the elimination of military bases. It indicates a flexible standpoint that the Soviet Union started to withdraw its tactical-operational missiles from Czechoslovakia and the GDR before the ratification of the Soviet-American missile agreement.

Answering a question on the extent the Soviet Union can make use of the reform experiences of the socialist countries, including Hungary, in its own endeavours for restructuring, Yevgeniy Primakov said that the practical experience is being studied by experts in the Soviet Union, which makes it possible to take over the solutions that can be utilized and avoid the repetition of eventual errors. He mentioned as an example the operation of Yugoslav enterprises where the management of self-financing firms generates inflation. This also proves that the prosperity of enterprises should be guaranteed by productivity rather than price increases.

A British journalist compared the Hungarian reform endeavours to a laboratory test. Yevgeniy Primakov said that no country can be a 'laboratory' for another state embarking on the road of a major economic renewal. This is impossible because of the various features, traditions, mechanisms and economic structures. At the same time this does not imply that the positive experiences cannot be adapted with the domestic features kept in view.

Asked by a radio reporter on technical development, Yevgeniy Primakov recalled that in the 1970s and the 1980s the Soviet Union experienced a phase of stagnation. The main reason can be found in the obsolete economic mechanism. The scientific and technical field was particularly hit. Although, as far as basic research is concerned, the Soviet Union belongs to the world vanguard, the achievements are translated into practice with major delays. The gravest danger of stagnation lies in the fact that the model of socialism may be compromised and the gap between the socialist and capitalist countries widen, as well as a lag in the social-welfare sphere.

Several questions were addressed to the policy towards the nationalities of the Soviet Union, recalling the recent Armenian nationalist demonstrations. Vadim Loginov emphasized that the rumours that the nationalist disturbances in the Karabakh Autonomous District belonging to the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic claimed victims are unfounded. The deputy foreign minister said that the district is inhabited by Azerbaijans and Armenians in almost fifty per cent proportion and explained the disturbances with shortcomings in internationalist education. In the wake of the events the CPSU Central Committee is to put the nationality issue on its agenda.

Discussing international affairs Vadim Loginov regarded as hopeful the dialogue that started between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO on the reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments in Europe in the wake of the Budapest appeal of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states.

Vadim Loginov said that, owing to the favourable approach of the United States, it is hoped that the Vienna consultations on the mandate of talks on complex arms reduction will bring result.

Welcoming the recent conference in Yugoslavia of the foreign ministers of the Balkan states the deputy foreign minister emphasized it was a great achievement that the leaders of a region that had always been ridden by tension sat to the negotiating table.

Answering questions Vladimir Karpov said that the Soviet writers take an active part in the Soviet Perestroyka and advocate the strengthening of the atmosphere of openness. Glasnost has greatly facilitated the work of writers. Political censorship which has to be a major obstacle to the writers' work was eliminated. It also reflects Glasnost that the name of some unjustifiably forgotten writers including Boris Pasternak and Anna Akhmatova returned to Soviet literature.

Nemeth Sees Gromyko Off

LD271059 Budapest MTI in English
1024 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 27 (MTI)—Concluding his official friendship visit to Hungary, Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, left Budapest Saturday. The Soviet politician was meeting an invitation from the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the Presidential Council. Andrey Gromyko was accompanied on his visit by his wife.

The high-ranking Soviet leader was seen off in Kossuth Square, adorned with flags, in front of the parliament building, with the guard of honour of the Hungarian People's Army lined up for the farewell ceremony. Andrey Gromyko was seen off by Rezso Trautmann, vice-president of the Presidential Council, Istvan Sarlos, president of the National Assembly, Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of trade, Frigyes Berecz, minister of industry, Bela Kopeczi, minister of culture and education, Pal Ivanyi, president of the Metropolitan Council, and numerous other leaders of political, economic and cultural life. Also present at the ceremony were many leaders and members of the diplomatic corps in Budapest.

Andrey Gromyko, accompanied by Karoly Nemeth, member of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and president of the Presidential Council, received the report of the commander of the guard of honour. After the Hungarian and the Soviet national anthems, the two heads of state inspected the guard of honour. The guests and their hosts then bid farewell to the Hungarian and the Soviet personalities, the leaders of the diplomatic representations present at the ceremony.

The ceremony ended with the gala march of the guard of honour, which Andrey Gormyko and Karoly Nemeth viewed together with their wives. The guests then left for the airport.

The high-ranking Soviet leader was seen off at Ferihegy Airport by Karoly Nemeth. Also present were Gyula Horn, state secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and Sandor Rajnai, Hungarian ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Boris Stukalin, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Hungary.

USSR's Antonov Views Socialist Common Market

LD252036 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian
0545 GMT 25 Feb 88

["Morning Dialogue" program; remarks by Soviet Deputy Premier Aleksey Antonov, in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation—recorded]

[Text] It is a considerable problem in the sphere of economic cooperation that the economic mechanisms differ from one another. Specifically, the formation of prices, the exchange rates policy, and many other things differ. Even Secretary of State Shultz asked in Moscow whether or not there was to be a convertible ruble or a convertible CEMA currency. Our views on this coincide: There is a need for such a convertible currency.

At the present time, however, the old CEMA mechanism still holds sway; that is, what takes place is not commerce but barter, simple barter, determined by prearranged quantitative indexes, which set limits at the same time. This method, going hand in hand with the harmonization of the 5-year plans, was appropriate in the past but is no longer satisfactory. This CEMA mechanism has now become a barrier to progress.

We are not advocating that the plan should be completely replaced by the market. But the plan should relate to strategic goals of cooperation and everyday business contacts should take place in line with market rules. For this, of course, there is a need for a common currency that fulfills all the functions of money.

It is true, of course, that for a common market there is a need first for national markets in the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. In other words, there is a need for enough producer and consumer goods for the customers to be able to choose. Of course, this is a long-term goal, but the work of the most recent CEMA session pointed in this direction. In the wake of this meeting, Hungarian and Soviet financial experts are carrying out experiments on the basis of which this currency can develop in the future. According to our plans, the July Prague CEMA session will discuss this matter at even greater length and with more results. By the beginning of 1989, certain market mechanisms should function within CEMA.

The expansion of direct links between enterprises is a good method for the creation of market relations as well. I am not telling you this just because we are now in Budapest, but I can firmly state that what has happened in this sphere, that is, the development of business relations between Soviet and Hungarian enterprises in 1987, is a considerable achievement.

On this basis, I think that I can feel justifiable confidence that if the whole CEMA wants the new forms of East European economic cooperation as much as the Soviet Union and Hungary do, then it is not utopian to think about a socialist Common Market.

Horn on Warsaw Pact Meeting in Prague

AU261716 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 24 Feb 88 p 2

[MTI report on statement by Foreign Affairs State Secretary Gyula Horn on the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Prague on 23 February: "Gyula Horn's Statement"]

Prior to his departure, Gyula Horn, who represented Hungary at the foreign ministers' meeting in Prague, told the Hungarian correspondents that the meeting was short, well organized, and at the same time very useful.

The purpose of the meeting which took place at the USSR's initiative, was to brief its allies on the Soviet-U.S. foreign ministers' talks. "In my opinion," Gyula Horn said, "one can clearly conclude that, concerning the depth and extent of the dialogue, Soviet-U.S. relations are currently at a stage that has not been characteristic of the relations between the two big powers in previous decades. In practice, this means that there has been a continuous dialogue between the two big powers since November 1985, and this is not only an exchange of views on every essential issue but these constructive relations have already perceptible results too.

"Among these results, I would stress primarily the fact that, in addition to arms limitation and a new disarmament agreement, the foreign ministers of the two leading powers also discussed, at their most recent meeting, all the issues concerning political, economic, and humanitarian cooperation or ways of solving local crises. In this respect, therefore, the current negotiations were also comprehensive. Another thing I would like to stress on the basis of Comrade Shevardnadze's report is that both sides' discussions were very constructive. This was also reflected, among other things, in the fact that both the Soviet Union and the United States are striving to reach an agreement, primarily on military disarmament. There are real possibilities that an agreement may be reached at the next Soviet-U.S. summit, an agreement that would stipulate a 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive weapons. Such an agreement would be much more important than the recent agreement on intermediate- and smaller range missiles, but such an agreement is much more complex and more difficult to work out.

"All the participants at the Prague meeting stressed that everything that the Soviet Union represent on the international arena—and thus, in the Soviet-U.S. relations—is not only supported by the Warsaw Pact members, but, in fact, it is also a joint proposal because all the Warsaw Pact members participate in working out these proposals and therefore, without exaggerating, we can say that these proposals reflect a collective will. Among the issues discussed in Prague, there were none in which the position of the Soviet Union was different from the positions of the other participants.

"We are also dealing with possible ways of widening the favorable processes currently underway in Soviet-U.S. relations," Gyula Horn then pointed out. He mentioned next week's NATO summit—a meeting which will not deal with only Soviet-U.S. relations but will also deal with European disarmament. The Warsaw Pact members also attribute great importance to a constructive attitude by NATO in this respect. "I must say," Gyula Horn stressed, "that there are serious difficulties in this respect at the talks of the 23 in Vienna. These negotiations have come to a sudden halt and the debates have become considerably tougher. And these talks deal with the essential issue of reducing conventional arms in Europe. These talks are of vital importance for all of us, because progress in the talks on the reduction of conventional arms is the condition for reducing military confrontation in all the other areas. The Warsaw Pact states would like to see progress in this respect, but, of course, this is possible only by a joint decision, in other words, by the Warsaw Pact and the NATO becoming partners of each other. We can also speak of joint efforts concerning all the other issued debated at the meeting. These are also not only issues concerning the Soviet-U.S. relations but issues concerning both systems of alliance," Gyula Horn concluded his statements.

Secretary Szuros Departs for Havana

LD262027 Budapest MTI in English 1620 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 26 (MTI)—Matyas Szuros, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, Friday left for Havana to attend the conference of secretaries for foreign affairs issues of the fraternal parties of the socialist countries. Matyas Szuros is accompanied by Csaba Tabajdi, deputy head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the HSWP Central Committee.

The delegation was seen off at Ferihegy Airport by Faustino Manuel Beato Morejon, ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Hungary.

Varkonyi Departs From Indonesia for India

LD272009 Budapest MTI in English 1805 GMT 27 Feb

[Text] Jakarta, February 27 (MTI)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi concluded his official visit to Indonesia Saturday, and left for India, the third stop on his tour in Asia and the Pacific Ocean region.

As reported, the Hungarian foreign minister met Indonesian President Suharto at the beginning of his four-day visit to Indonesia. In the following [as received] Peter Varkonyi met several members of the Indonesian Government, and held talks on further opportunities to develop economic-commercial relations.

According to information of MTI's correspondent, at the official talks between Peter Varkonyi and his host, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, the sides represented a uniform standpoint in the major international issues. With respect to the South-east Asian region, the leader of Hungarian diplomacy appreciated the efforts of Indonesia for the political settlement of the regional conflicts. Both sides were of the opinion that the Kampuchean problem has to be solved with the participation of all concerned, in a political manner, through negotiations.

The two foreign ministers agreed that Hungarian-Indonesian relations are free of problems and friendly. This provides good opportunities for the reciprocally advantageous development of cooperation in the economic, technical and scientific and cultural fields. It is a joint effort that this cooperation be realized in more flexible and modern forms.

Arrives in India

LD272206 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] The Hungarian foreign minister has arrived in India on the third stage of his tour of Asia and the South Pacific. Earlier, Peter Varkonyi held talks in Indonesia primarily on the development of economic and trading relations. These topics will also be discussed in India, where Peter Varkonyi will be received by the president, the Prime Minister, and the vice president.

Presidential Council Meets, Makes Appointments

LD261442 Budapest MTI in English 1241 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 26 (MTI)—The Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic held a session Friday.

The body convened the Hungarian National Assembly to meet at 10.00 am on Wednesday, March 16, 1988.

The Council of Ministers proposes the National Assembly to discuss the following agenda: the bill on road transport, the amendment of Law No. 3 of 1971 on the Cooperatives, the amendment of Law No. 3 of 1967 on the Agricultural Cooperatives, the amendment of Law No. 4 of 1976 on food.

The Presidential Council, on the submittal of the Council of Ministers, framed a law decree on plant protection. The new legal measure takes into consideration the latest scientific results achieved in plant protection, determines the related tasks of the authorities, and sets down: Plant protection has to be carried out in harmony with the human environment and the protection of nature.

The Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic has appointed, with effect from March 1, 1988, Istvan Banfalvi the state secretary of the Ministry of Social-Welfare and Health, Dr Miklos Varga the state secretary of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management.

Berecz Attends Conference on Morality

LD262319 Budapest MTI in English 2045 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 26 (MTI)—The national theoretical conference entitled "Morals and World Outlook in Contemporary Hungarian Society" continued in Bekescsaba on Friday with caucus sessions. Janos Berecz, member of the HSWP Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, attended.

In the section discussing the interrelationship between world, man and world outlook, and the changing image of socialism, some contributors held it as unrealistic to demand that social scientists should create a single picture of the future, in keeping with the political and ideological requirements. In the new situation they should rather outline alternatives. It was also emphasized that in contemporary socialism the "human factor" could fulfil its social role by renewing its relation to the community.

Contributors to the debate on "Morals in Socialism" stated taht many moral norms have been downgraded and some of them have become untenable. It is particularly important today to have a reliable scale of morals and to formulate the basic principles to be followed. Some of the traditional moral values should be reintegrated into the scale of moral values.

People are turning with growing interest towards ideological issues. Members of the older and younger generations generally await understandable theoretical explanations for the events of the recent past and present, it was emphasized in the section "Marxist ideology—mediatory systems—common consciousness". Some contributors called for a profound ideological analysis of the processes of the fifties. The ideological problems of the Seventies were also addressed, namely whether the pragmatic measures of the period should have been elevated to the rank of ideology.

When the younger members of society demand an account of the fulfilment of historical promises they formulate values shared by socialism such as humanism, belief, external and internal harmony and love.

It was worded from many aspects that ideology, starting out from contemporary reality, should answer the essential questions and that scientific achievements should be more frequently confronted in practice.

Addresses Conference

LD272131 Budapest MTI in English 1943 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 27 (MTI)—The national theoretical conference, which was held in Bekescsaba under the title "Morals and World Outlook in Contemporary Hungarian Society", ended Saturday. The conference was attended by philosophers, economists, sociologists, university researchers and experts of other branches of science.

Janos Berecz, member of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and secretary of the Central Committee, was present for the plenary session of the closing day, which was opened by Erno Lakatos, head of the Agitation and Propaganda Department of the HSWP Central Committee. In the following the leaders of the three sections reported on the section debates, which heard 66 contributions.

In the following Janos Berecz summarized the contributions heard in the national theoretical conference.

The secretary of the Central Committee said: "Although we avoided the word ideology in the title at this conference, major debate and exchange of opinion was held in all three sections with respect to ideology.

"I agree that in the more complex social-economic relations ideology cannot be used to fill a gap, but some sort of guideline is necessary. A society cannot lastingly exist in the long-range without values—emotional and intellectual values. That there exists a thirst for ideology was manifest on the basis of this."

The secretary of the Central Committee also said that great expectations can be experienced in society. "However, an expectant society always is disappointed to some extent. Words which compel to take action have to be said. Action is necessary."

It was raised at the conference: What is more important in contemporary Hungarian society: Economy, ideology or the reform of the political system of institutions.

"We live in a period when there is no need for rankings of this kind", Janos Berecz said. "Undoubtedly, advance cannot be complete without economic development. The economy has to invariably be considered as the foundation, but for the economic reform to further develop, we have to attain essential and appropriate changes today in the social environment of economy. This is mainly inherent in the modern perception of the party's leading role, in the reform of the political system of institutions, in the renewal of ideology. Our party has to simultaneously handle these major issues."

Janos Berecz said: "We can agree with the analyses of the conference, according to which even if there are crisis phenomena, these cannot be expressed in a crisis mood, as these disarm and do not encourage for action."

The secretary of the Central Committee, discussing the necessity of action, analyzed several connections of the past, present and the future. "We need the lessons of the past, however, immersion in digging into things does not provide direct assistance for us." (...) [MTI punctuation] "It is extremely important to explore the current state of tendencies which are good and favourable.

"We can come up against impatience today", noted the secretary of the Central Committee. "The theoreticians are impatient towards the policy, and have asked that patience be shown towards science, and policy also requests confidence."

He went on to say: "From the point of view of practicing power, it is important that we possess the elements of socialist pluralism. The transformation of the system of institutions which ensure the practicing of power can only have a democratic content. Democracy cannot be divided, all elements, all institutions and all communities of society have to uniformly and unambiguously avail themselves of it. This also refers to the party."(...) [MTI punctuation] "I believe that the central Committee can say, on behalf of the entire party: It adheres to the leading role of the party starting from its conviction that this is useful, that it can serve with this."

"What is required for us to further strengthen the leading role of the party is that we be a party that publicly discusses and engages in politics. The leading role of the party is not represented by the Central Committee, it has to be uniformly enforced by all party members and party basic organizations.

"A party of action is needed to win the leading role, one which knows that it acts in the interest of the entire society."

"The inner publicness of the party is necessary for us to be a party that engaged in politics. There can be no secrets about the inner work of the party before the party members. We have to attain that democracy be complete within the party."

Janos Berecz also discussed the situation of young people: "We have to provide scope for the young people to be participants in the solving of the problems, and that they be able to represent their own future."

Coming back to ideological issues, he stressed: "We are compelled by constraint to deal with the renewal of ideology, but this cannot compel us to find or make an ideology to and for everything.

"The renewal of ideology includes that we make people conscious of the fact that a society of full value cannot exist without appreciation for the values. If we look back on the past, we should notice the good traditions, and should rely on those as it might be they carry values which only have to be complemented in the interest of the future, instead of re-created," said, among others, Janos Berecz.

Interviewed on Conference

LD282231 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Interview with Janos Berecz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP, by unidentified announcer of "The Week" program—date and place not given;

[Text] [Announcer] Janos Berecz, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, took part in the recent theoretical conference at Bekescsaba. On this occasion, he gave an interview to The Week.

Without any intention to provoke, let me ask you a question that is heard everywhere: Why are we organizing a theoretical conference—on moral questions—when everyone nationwide is arguing about our economic worries?

[Berecz] I consider the question perfectly legitimate, and it is worthwhile—necessary—to get to the heart of things with the answer. For years, we, too, have been saying that the key to our resurgence is the economy, the solving of economic tasks, and a way of thinking has begun in society, as if only prices, wages, indices, percentages...

[Announcer, interrupting] Taxes?

[Berecz] Taxes, rate of tax—personal and enterprisal income tax—were the determining factors in the life of a society.

[Announcer] In the past days, you took part in a debate at which they said that one of the main conditions of economic resurgence is the type of society that is supporting or hindering it.

[Berecz] The social environment can formulate, as a system of institutions, how the party—the directing role of the party—is functioning, what the connection between the government and the legislature is like, and what the operation of various social organizations—or state organizations, councils—is like. However, in my opinion, this still does not satisfy the concept of social environment, for the behavior of people, their relations to each other, the participation of communities from society in public life, in the handling of public affairs, and the moral norms that determine its way of thinking, have today emerged as almost decisive factors. The principle that says, keep scratching away, you will get your due, is being asserted. And there are ideas such as: The assertion of the individual is happening with the taking into account of the necessity of the public good; Various members of society are endeavoring to obtain everything they can get their hands on; and, the individual's success depends on how much solidarity he has with the other members of the community, on what relations the various communities enter into with each other, and on the basis of what norms. This is a moral question, too.

Therefore, in my evaluation, despite all kinds of economic matters of public importance, and alongside them, the operation of the political institution system—the assertion of the moral norms of society, respecting, honoring, and accepting this—is today one of the determining factors of our public life.

So, we should not just live on something; we should live in a way that is worthy of this society, our people, our Hungarian-ness.

[Announcer] I heard an interesting phrase here, that in Hungary in recent years the economy has been sacrificed on the altar of ideology, and now the danger is that thoughts will be sacrificed on the altar of the economic golden calf. Do you perceive such a danger?

[Berecz] There are always dangers in thinking, for man thinks in a polarized way and it is not as if he could take every factor, every aspect into account at the same time. Many accusations can be made against ideology, but ideology is no other than the state of thinking of society or the leading party.

It is a fact that sometimes ideology can hinder, and sometimes it points the way forward, provides encouragement for resurgence when it radiates some kind of optimism. At present we need optimism, because we concern ourselves with daily tax or price issues, from the point of view of a nation, and this can only be lived through if we try to look at least 5 or 10 years forward. What is more, our duty now is to concern ourselves also with the turn of the century, for we are not preoccupied just by the simple question of how we can survive these 1 or 2 years, but whether we can lay the basis in these 1 or 2 years for the future of Hungarians at the turn of the century, and the development of the situation of our children. However, for this, we need ideology, ideological thought, which does not have to rule, but should encourage and spur to action. Thus, I think that today a theoretical conference of this nature, in addition to laying the basis for today, also projects the future before us.

[Announcer] On Friday, you spoke here in the county, at Totkimlos, about the fact that a lack of trust is growing and that the political consensus has to be rephrased. What did you mean by this?

[Berecz] We are living in an age when every-day problems are giving rise to lack of trust and insecurity in people's relations to one another and their relations to the party. While there is uncertainty it is easier to deal with the questions, but if this is transformed into mistrust then signs of erosion also appear in society which can destroy cooperation, and they are destroying at this moment or weakening the consensus.

I think our agreement of yesterday still exerts its effect today, but it is no longer sufficient. Today we must build an alliance on the premise that the party's leading role should be a program in the way it is asserted. In our actions and conduct we must set an example, and we must give young people self-confidence so that they can recognise that they not only have a role but also a future. The consensus must be built on this future in such a way that it is not enough that one person or one collective expresses an opinion on things. Everyone must participate in the program's formulation. Every community must be involved, whether it is a small village, a large town, an association, a basic party organization, or the party's Central Committee.

[Announcer] You have mentioned the party's leading role, and I am sure you do not think it pedantic if I ask how this is to be understood. After all, the term, the party's leading role, has meant so many different things in the past 40 years, or even 70 years.

[Berecz] The assertion of the party's leading role developed in historical circumstances. After the liberation in 1945 it gained expression in a revolutionary struggle. It was legitimized, legalized, and made acceptable by the fact that its ideology was sympathetic—it provided an answer to the people's problems. Victory followed victory in the revolutionary momentum, despite smaller or larger defeats. This nation developed as a whole, and we felt good in this country.

We were able to provide additional momentum after the rupture of 1956, too, to stimulate the nation's optimism, development, readiness for action. After all, we brought into existence an agricultural system which even with its problems can be a source of pride for us. We launched a reform process which today is an inspiration for other reform processes, despite the uncertainties and breaks. A consensus developed where we could declare that those who were not against us were with us. These values are worth looking after.

But when problems accumulate—when signs of mistrust appear, when people become uncertain—then, rather than strengthening the party's leading role, all these things weaken it and raise a question mark.

What I understand by its renewal is that a program must be provided now beside the economic program for a resurgence: a program for a social, political reform; reform of the system of political institutions, that is, comprehensive reform. The party must regain its self-confidence to be able to act; to have self-confidence so that it can radiate its readiness to accept responsibility for the nation, for the nation's way out. Third, it should make clear that it counts on everyone. So we should not all be together only around the table of public taxes, but also in the formulation of policies, in the realization of policies, and also in supervision. Everyone, whether they are individual leaders or part of a corporate leading institution, should do their work under public scrutiny, and they should accept the responsibility that arises from this.

Finally, greater care must be taken with our youths. Young people are uncertain. Our future will be decided by what young people are like today and how the torch can be passed on to them.

1987 Food Industry Results Published

AU261353 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 19 Feb 88 p 1,4

[Cs. J.-attributed report: "The Food Industry Exceeded Its Export Plan for 1987—We Suffered Losses on the Seed-Grain Market—Surplus was Higher Than Expected—Coordination Is Needed in Many areas—press conference held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food"]

[Text]"Workers in the food industry have no reason to be ashamed of their export performance in 1987: Exports accounted in U.S. dollars exceeded the planned level by 10 percent, and exports accounted in rubles were also higher than expected," said Ferenc Dull, chairman of a main department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, at a press conference held on 18 February, and to which managers of several enterprises, trusts, and associations were also invited.

The imports of this branch were somewhat higher than planned; however, instead of the planned surplus of $600 million, a surplus of $670 million was achieved. In 1987, food management succeeded in selling goods abroad amounting to 91 billion forints. Some 21 percent of the people's economy's exports—accounted in forints—were carried out by this branch. Its share in exports accounted in convertible currency is even larger at 27.5 percent. This figure is somewhat smaller than the 1986 figure but, even so, the branch is considered to be an important sector for acquiring foreign currency.

In the area of food management in 1987, the meat, poultry, cereals, and vegetable oil industry, and the growth in market gardening (fresh vegetables and fruit, the canned products industry, refrigerating industry, wine industry) were the most important sources of foreign currency.

The value of the export performance is increased by the fact that because of the bad weather, 1.5 million fewer tonnes of cereals were produced, and this caused a $40-million loss. Frost and ice also caused damage to market gardening crops, and a particularly considerable

decline in grape production. The changes that occurred on the Soviet market aggravated these difficulties; in particular, wine and champagne exports became more difficult and declined.

In 1987 the meat industry sold products worth $320 million on foreign markets, which exceeded the expected level by 5 percent. With the exception of dry goods [szarazaru], we were also successful in accomplishing our ruble accounted goals. Poultry industry enterprises exported $207 million worth of goods, which amounts to a performance 4 percent above the plan. In 1987 we also succeeded in conquering a new market and 10,000 tonnes of goods were sold to Argentina. Our sales to the Middle East continue to be accompanied by many difficulties and concerns, mainly because of buyers' solvency difficulties. At the same time, it was relatively easy to sell goose liver, eggs, and ducks.

As a result of a surplus supply of sowing seeds in the U.S. and Canada, Hungarian enterprises had to suffer a considerable loss of income amounting to about $10 million. Ferenc Dull stressed that it is also true that lack of marketing coordination also played a role in this. The Association of Sowing Seed Traders was established, in order to prevent a repetition of this situation in the future.

The performance of the vegetable oil industry also exceeded the planned level and this exported more oil seeds than planned; dollar-accounted incomes amounted to $80 million. Sales of market gardening products lagged behind the expected level. At the same time it would be worth noting that interest in Hungarian wines increased in the U.S., Canada, and Japan.

Our refrigeration industry succeded in introducing new products to capitalist markets and also carried out pilot shipments to several socialist countries. Its performance accounted in both kinds of foreign currencies exceeded the planned performance.

The 1988 plan set the food industry the goal of accomplishing a balance surplus of $755 million. This goal can only be accomplished by doing our work exceptionally carefully, improving adjustment, increasing the processing level of our products, further widening integration relations, and increasing exports of so-called small-scale articles. It will be necessary to further coordinate interests in exports of game and down, for example, but also in the case of other products. We lack the necessary stocks of certain articles. For example, we could sell more pigs, cattle, and sheep. However, the price of poultry and vegetable oils is very low.

Answering a question by the NEPSZAVA correspondent, ministry officials said that in order to prevent a further raspberry war, raspberries were added to the export list, and the two relevant ministries will determine who will deal with sales of this important product on the foreign market. Snail exports in 1987 were exceptionally successful, and snail sales were twice as high as previously. However, officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food will be unable to rejoice endlessly, because it is to be feared that, in a similar way to what has already happened in France, this success will cause a considerable slowdown in 1988.

PPF Committee Urges Minority Law Enactment

AU252210 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 19 Feb 88 p 5

[Report by Istvan D. Denes: "The Opinion of the Budapest PPF Presidium—It Would Be Topical To Enact a Law on National Minorities"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted on King Stephen's edicts concerning hospitality] When the presidium of the Budapest PPF Committee convened at the beginning of the week, the participants received a small copy of extracts from King Stephen's edicts,the truth of which has survived the passage of centuries. And since the participants had an exchange of opinion on a very similar current issue, it would have been almost impossible to find a worthier historical background than this. That is, the presidium held a debate on our national minority affairs, and finally adopted the position that it would be topical to enact a national minority law. They adopted a proposal to the effect that, on the initiative of the presidium, the Budapest representatives should consider the possibility of submitting a proposal to enact a new national minority law.

In the course of our talk, Emil Pejak, managing secretary of the Budapest PPF Committee, said that it would be important to create new legal means to eliminate disadvantages originating from national minority status.

"The Constitution regulates national minority rights in a brief and, naturally, general manner. However, not one independent law has been made for more than a century. Paragraph 61 of the Constitution guarantees national minorities the right to use their mother tongue, have education in their mother tongue, and preserve and develop their own culture.

"The penal code also regulates the general protection of national minority rights; among other things, it stipulates the possibility of punishment for people who publicly commit an act which could incite hatred against national minorities." [passage omitted on several other national minority regulations in the penal code]

"By means of these regulations, I would like to demonstrate that national minority rights are laid down by sporadic legal regulations. In our opinion, it would be good to change this situation, if only because basic national minority issues have perceptibly become the center of interest in Hungary. In recent years our national minority policy has developed in the spirit of our Constitution and has measurable and worthy results. It is precisely because of this further progress that the time has come to enact a comprehensive national minority law that, bu European standards, would also represent a significant achievement." [passage omitted]

Medical Workers Protest 'Broken Promise'

AU271622 Paris AFP in English
0255 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 27 (AFP)—Polish doctors and nurses are putting together petitions to protest at what they say is a broken promise by Health Minister Janusz Komender over pay rises, informed sources said.

Mr Komender went on television to say there would be a 15,000-zloty (40-dollar) per month pay rise for health workers to compensate for 40-per-cent retail price rises introduced at the beginning of the month.

But so far wages have risen by between only 1,500 and 4,500 zlotys (four to 12 dollars), sources said.

Five thousand signatures have been collected on a petition at the Baltic port of Gdansk, 3,000 at Plock in the west and 600 at Lublin in the south-east, and the campaign is picking up steam, sources said.

Two hundred doctors demonstrated outside a hospital at Gdansk on Wednesday, and two Communist Party central committee members were presented with a petition when they visited a hospital at Lodz in central Poland.

Before recent rises an experienced doctor could expect to earn not more than 22,000 zlotys (58 dollars) a month, while newly-qualified nurses got just 8,000 zlotys (21 dollars) a month, compared to a national average of 30,000 zlotys (79 dollars).

Solidarity Urges Rail Workers To Strike

AU281343 Paris AFP in English
0735 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 28 (AFP)—Officials of the banned trade union Solidarity have urged the 3,000-strong labour force at the Railway Repair Workshops at Wroclaw, southwest Poland, to strike from Monday, local dissident sources said.

The officials said the strike would not be political but would protest at the 40 per cent retail price rises introduced at the beginning of the month.

A union statement said: "We have the right to defend staunchly our families' standard of living."

"The cost-of-living allowance...does not cover the shortfall in wages since the price rises."

Nine Opposition Members Arrested

AU291346 Paris AFP in English
1330 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 29 (AFP)—Nine Polish opposition figures were arrested Sunday on the way to a rally at which it was planned to found a new political movement, the Polish Farmworkers' Party (PSL).

The inaugural meeting was to take place at Juszczyn, 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Krakow but a strong police contingent was deployed to prevent the meeting being held.

The nine detained included several former members of Rural-Solidarity, the agricultural branch of the banned Solidarity union. They were held for several hours at Sucha, a town near Juszczyn.

Before World War II, the PSL existed as a right-leaning independent party for agricultural workers but in 1947 it was merged into the official political structure.

Several attempts have been made since then to revive the PSL by those who consider that the Communist Unified Farm Party (ZSL) is "too well aligned with the government".

Episcopate Plenary Conference Held in Warsaw

LD262203 Vatican City International Service in Polish 1900 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] On 24 and 25 February the 225th Plenary Conference of the Polish Episcopate was held in Warsaw.

Reporting on the fundamental topics discussed during the deliberations, a communique was published at its conclusion. On the 1st day of the conference, the bishops discussed their visit to the apostle's home in Rome last November and December, giving particular consideration to the Papal addresses made at that time, which enabled them—we read in the communique—to define as a group the tasks for further pastoral work and the church's ministration to the nation.

The bishops expressed gratitude to the Holy Father for the new social encyclical which, together with other Church documents in the sphere of Catholic social teaching, contains binding directions for the faithful on activities in family, professional, economic, social, and political life. The communique stresses that these documents should be the subject of thought, reading, and study by both pastors and the faithful. It is the task, therefore, of Catholic publishers to make them widely accessible to readers.

The bishops acquainted themselves with the course of talks by representatives of the Episcopate with representatives of the Holy See and the government, on the settlement of state-church relations and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the Polish People's Republic. The regulations by law are intended to promote the good of society, Church, and the state.

The bishops discussed the country's current social problems. They assessed with gravity and concern the situation of poor families and those with many chidren, and of aged and disabled pensioners, as a consequence of the

recent economic decisions, particularly the price increases. In such a situation, it is vital to take measures to protect those social groups against further improverishment and at the same time to take such political and legal decisions as would enable individuals to carry on economic activity, in the broad sense, to improve their own economic situation, and for the common good as well.

In light of Catholic social teaching, it is essential to considerably extend the role of the private sector in the national economy. The legislative sphere, including the constitution, and the economic sphere, should guarantee the permanence and equality of its role with regard to other sectors. Private ownership has a dual purpose: unitary, which safeguards the needs of the individual and social, which serves all of society.

It is generally believed—we read in the communique—reforms on a broad scale are indispensable in our country, in parallel with political reforms. It is necessary also to broaden individual economic activity, to make the cooperative sector genuinely so, to guarantee local self-governments their own economic bases, and to abandon political criteria when selecting management cadres.

However, economic reforms cannot be carried out without sacrifices from society, the bishops write. For this reason, it is essential to carry out broad reforms, making society a carrier of rights, by enabling independent social associations and worker representations to be set up. John Paul II, in his encyclical, puts the question: Does negation or curtailment of human rights, such as the right to religious freedom, the right to participate in building a society, freedom to associate or create trade unions and to take initiatives in economic matters, not impoverish people as much as, if not more so than depriving them of material goods?

The bishops stress that economic reforms cannot be carried out without giving society the opportunity to set up independent social associations and worker representations. For many months now, we read in the communique, there has been no shortage of official announcements on opening the field for all those essential initiatives. It is worrying, however, that these announcements are still in the realm of declaration and discussion. Administrative practice, on the other hand, frequently goes in the opposite direction, putting barriers in the way of various kinds of economic, social and political initiative. The danger of the crisis in our country threatens to worsen without these initiatives.

On the 2d day of the deliberations, the bishops discussed the church's pastoral tasks from the second millenium since the birth of Christ the Lord, now coming to an end and the approaching important anniversaries for the nation and the church in Poland: the millenium of the martyr's death of St. Wojciech (Adalbert) the 200th anniversary of the passing of the Third of May Constitution the 70th anniversary of the regaining of independence by the pontificate of the Holy Father, John Paul II.

A proposal was also made to convene a second plenary synod in Poland. The first plenary synod in our country was held in 1936 in Czestochowa. The present synod would have a pastoral and normative character. Its purpose will be to revitalize evangelization, leading to the moral rebirth of the whole nation; the deepening of Christian beliefs and awakening of activeness in social and public life. The bishops expect that lay believers, too, will also take extensive part in the preparations for and the work of the synod. The legal bases were discussed and the outline theological pastoral and organizational problems of the synod were drawn up.

Reports were heard on the work of individual episcopate commissions and on the marian celebrations in the Gdansk Diocese linked with the beginning of the journey of the copy of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

At the end of the deliberations, the bishops participating in the Plenary Conference gave a pastoral blessing to pastors, believers, and all those doing penance and taking part in Lenten retreats.

Paper Analyzes Dissolution of Communist Party

LD261434 Warsaw PAP in English
0934 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 26—The ZYCIE PARTII (Life of the Party) biweekly, a PUWP CC organ, started a series of publications elucidating white spots in the latest history of the Polish working class movement. Living member of the Communist Party of Poland (KPP) Eugeniusz Szyr writes about facts related to dissolving the KPP by Stalin in the latter half of the 1930s. Szyr says that when the KPP managed to overcome sectarian distortions, imposed upon it, becoming a champion and organizer of a uniform and popular front of struggle to defend the interests of the working masses and the entire people and when it pointed out the road to defending Poland against the danger of the Nazi aggression, it was dealt a deadly blow. It was dissolved under the decision of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, although the decision was neither officially announced nor the KPP leadership in Poland was notified about it.

The text of the resolution of the Executive Committee of the Communist International on dissolving the KPP, now given to a Polish-Soviet commission of historians, bears the date of August 1938. Actually, the decision on this question was made earlier, perhaps already at the end of 1937.

The accusations "justifying" this unusual decision, tragic for Polish Communists, were presented in January 1938 in the "KOMUNISTICHESKY INTERNACJONAL", an organ of the Executive Committee of the Communist International. An article "Provocations at Work" was signed by J. Swiecicki, unknown to anybody, and was ostensibly dispatch from here. The publication

authoritatively stated that the KPP leadership was in the hands of provocators sent by the Defensive (the Political Police) and the second division of the General Staff. The provocators were to impose erroneous and false views and actions upon the KPP. They even set up factions fighting one another to weaken the communist movement in Poland and to isolate it from the masses.

After successive sentences on KPP members and other central activists, plenary sessions of the KPP CC adopted resolutions on expelling them from the party, echoing assertions and invictives addressed to them in indictments. Members of the KPP CC did not permit a thought that groundless charges could have been levelled and illegal sentences could have been passed in the USSR. In 1937, the KPP leadership practically gave up selective "uncovering" of agents and provocators in this party and, certainly on Stalin's order, adopted a general concept that all central KPP activists and Poles working in the Russian Communist Party of Bolsheviks (RKP/B/) in the state Soviet organs and the Komintern bodies (such as Lenski and Prochnik—members of the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International) are in this or other way involved in provocative and espionage activity and they should be put out of action.

In the spring of 1937, members of the KPP Central authorities are called to Moscow from Poland, France, Spain and Czechoslovakia and disappeared. This must have aroused their fear but they came to the USSR, although at least some of them must have been aware of the danger threatening them. However, they knew that the refusal to come would amount to political death and they probably did not want to pay such a price for their lives. The end of destroying the leading cadre of Polish Communists took place in principle in 1937. The dissolution of the KPP was only a natural outcome of these actions.

The main circumstance was important: Polish Communists were marked by considerable independence of opinions and they found it pretty hard to yield to rigours of severe centralism that Stalin and Zinoviev (when the latter was a Komintern chairman) managed to impose upon individual national parties after the death of Lenin.

The author recalls that 70 years from the establishing the Communist Workers' Party of Poland, called the Communist Party of Poland from 1925, will pass on December 16, 1988.

Eugeniusz Szyr was a member of the KPP and the French Communist Party in the inter-war years and a PUWP CC Political Bureau member in 1964-1968.

PAP Reports Urban News Conference

LD232025 Warsaw PAP in English
1920 GMT 23 Feb 88

[By Anna Gembicka, Janusz Zaleski]

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 23—Polish money-seeking emigration—brain drain, recent student manifestations in Krakow and Warsaw, assessment of the events of March, 1968, now in the works, prospects of establishing Polish-Vatican and Polish-Israeli relations, Poland's stance towards the conference of the foreign ministers of Balkan states, whether Lech Walesa will receive passport to visit Australia—These were the main topics addressed by Government Spokesman Minister Jerzy Urban at his weekly conference here Tuesday.

The conference was attended by group of Israeli newsmen and representatives of Jewish press from other countries, now on a visit to Poland.

Polish Money-Seeking Emigration—Brain Drain [subhead]

At the start Urban made the following statement:

Over 18 million cases of Poles traveling abroad were registered over the past five years, including about 4,164,000 travelers to non-socialist states. The number of foreign travels is growing by about 20 percent a year. The fact that so many Poles travel abroad is regarded by the government as a very favourable phenomenon and the government aims at further easing travel regulations. Well advanced are works on the project to issue long-term passports which one could keep at home.

From 1983 to 1987, 58.5 thousand people emigrated, that is left Poland permanently, including approximately 5,000 specialists with higher education.

Approximately 117 thousand people, who left for a specified period of time, in reality remained permanently abroad. This includes 16.5 thusand specialists with higher education. Therefore, during five years 21.5 thousand people with higher education left Poland. This is more than the total number of such people in more than one developing country. Poland lost about 8,000 engineers, over 2 thousand doctors, many scientists, economists, architects. But this is not the end of the balance-sheet of losses.

328 thousand people extended their stays abroad, including 38,000 people with higher education. This number includes 11 thousand engineers, 3.5 thousand doctors, 4,000 scientists, approximately 4,800 economists. We think that the majority of them will return but a large number may not do so. Thus, the total losses can be put at hundreds of thousands of people at a productive age and the majority of whom are professionals. The losses include tens of thousands of specialists with higher education.

The losses resulting from the costs of educating the overall number of those who left permanently, or those who are extending their stays and will not return, run into hundreds of billions of zlotys. The loss of the costs of education is not, however, the end of material costs since as a society we are losing the value of their labour.

The vast majority of those leaving Poland are lost in favour of the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin, followed by the United States, Italy and France.

The primary reason of the emigration or for remaining abroad are higher wages, compared to those offered in Poland. Political motives play a truly marginal role. False is also the motive sometimes raised by the Western press of the lack of professional opportunities for young people in Poland. This is emigration of financial calculations, saying this I am not evaluating but merely stating a fact.

Over 95 percent of Poles who declare the wish of travelling abroad do not meet with difficulties in receiving a passport. They meet, however, a Visa barrier and next, in various countries in the West, bigger or smaller difficulties in legalizing their permanent or extended stay. However, a brain drain from Poland is hidden under the guise of Western immigration policy. Skilled professionals with sought after specialities are kept easily and willingly.

The rich West, which criticizes socialism, drains from Poland part of socialism's achievements. Poland loses in favour of the very rich countries part of the valuable good in the form of high professional abilities of the majority of those people who leave Poland. We incur the losses in favour of those countries which generally, gently speaking, are very moderate in establishing economic cooperation with Poland which would aid our reforms and development. The human potential, which they gain at our expense, with calculable losses for Poland, remains outside any economic calculation, including the calculation of mutual obligations.

Presenting this issue in public we are not representing the view, of which we are accused, that we hold the opinion that the citizen is the property of the state or society which brought him up, educated him. Our passport policy is evidence of the fact that we do not reason so. We respect the individual's right to self-determination about himself, his life and his ties with his own country.

We neither intend to withdraw from our passport policy of open doors and open borders, nor to carry out some kind of human trade.

I want to state that the government is aware of the problem and its whole complexity. We expect understanding for these Polish dilemmas from our Western partners, who benefit from the fact that wages in their countries are high and their currency strong while education in Poland is readily accessible and free. We also expect that this understanding will gain a material dimension, that it will be taken into consideration in the balancing of mutual economic relations and obligations.

The issue is of prime significance and has a national dimension. It has already been addressed by the pope who encouraged Poles not to leave their country which needs hands and brains.

The Polish authorities announce that leaving the country simply for better wages is not a citizen's attitude, it causes damage and loss for our national community.

The Polish authorities, conscious of the existence of a conflict of values, do not see any simple prescription determining the method of our action. I, therefore, turn to the majority of Poles to express in various forms their view on what must be done and how to act.

Authorities vis a vis Student Manifestations [subhead]

Urban said that several dozen people had staged a demonstration in Rzeszow, and these were surrounded by a similar number of onlookers. The organization was organized by a faction of activists of the former rural Solidarnosc. Protests concerned among other things the rises of food prices. This is a globally unique case, and rare in the historical dimension, too, when people claiming to represent farmers protest against the outcome of farmers' work becoming more expensive, which, as it is known, constitutes the necessary condition to raise procurement prices, Urban said.

In Krakow, a large number of students, put by foreign correspondents at some 1,000 (then this number, as usual, was blown in forther reports to several thousand), staged an illegal demonstration in a student campus. Next, on February 19, an illegal rally took place in the courtyard of Warsaw University, which was originally attended by about 500, and later, onlookers included, by some 1,000 students. BBC multiplied the participants to 3,000. At both rallies demands concerned the revival of NZS (Independent Students' Association), an organization which was dissolved because of its being politically extreme. To attract students' attention, this demand was supplemented with far-fetched and unrealistic material postulates concerning the level of stipends.

One cannot help but notice that both these manifestations disturbing peace in higher schools took place on the eve of a round anniversary of the events of March, 1968, and after the authorities announced work on reliable publications containing changes to certain former assessments of the March events, including the then student protests.

Therefore, I feel empowered to present a hypothesis that the current manifestations were inspired against these intentions of the authorities. What seems to be the real intention behind their organization is the will to torpedo the authorities' aim to correct part of assessments concerning the events which occurred 20 years ago. The point is probably to prove the vitality or reliability of

those plot-suggesting assessments and to prove readiness for confrontation-oriented activities in response to liberalization of relations and progress in national agreement.

So, perhaps it would be worthwhile for students to ponder just who is behind this and what this is all about, and also to consider the fact that attempts at rallying, staged after all in a diametrically different atmosphere—mean something quite different—they have an outrightly reverse meaning. It is strange that so large a group of students let themselves be manipulated.

I state that the authorities will neither change intentions concerning the revision of certain assessments of the March 1968 events, nor their attitude towards attempts at disturbing peace at higher schools.

Professor Gierowski's Statement in Jerusalem [subhead]

Answering a question pertaining to Professor Gierowski's statement at a conference of historians in Jerusalem, Urban said once more that Professor Gierowski did not have—since there did not exist any message or statement from Wojciech Jaruzelski which the former, according to the Western press, allegedly read out. The existing recording, which was quoted by the Western press, contains Prof. Gierowski's own words and I have no denial to make as far as these words are concerned, Urban said. Prof. Gierowski said that prior to his departure for Jerusalem he received information from a member of the Consultative Council, Prof. Kuczynski, who was informed by General Jaruzelski that Publications were being prepared which in some aspects would contain a change of the party's former attitude regarding the March 1968 events.

Polish-Vatican Diplomatic Relations [subhead]

Referring to yesterday's televised statement made by Archbishop Jerzy Stroba, pertaining to the probability of the establishment of Polish-Vatican diplomatic relations still this year, Urban said that he generally shared the optimism expressed by Archbishop Stroba after talks of representatives of Poland's episcopate in the Vatican but, we are still before the initiation of Polish-Vatican talks on this subject, therefore, speaking about dates would be premature.

Poland-Israel Relations [subhead]

Asked about the prospects for the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Poland and Israel, Urban said that these prospects were conditional on the progress of the peace process in the Middle East. Any possible progress in Polish-Israeli relations, including the establishment of diplomatic relations, is not connected with any Polish-Israeli bilateral issues but, with the peace processes in the Middle East and with Israel's being inclined to respect the rightful aspirations of the Palestinian nation.

Answering another question, asked by a journalist from the British-based Jewish CHRONICLE, on the possibility of Poland's participation in a conference on the Middle East, Urban said that Poland supported the idea of an international conference with the participation of all the sides in the Middle East conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, for the solving of the issue of security, the resolution of the Palestinian question and the guaranteeing of safe borders to all Middle Eastern states, including Israel. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Israel may take place when the peace process in the Middle East takes on a real dimension or the causes which led to the breach of relations will cease to exist or prospects for this appear.

Balkan Conference [subhead]

Poland will observe with great interest the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan states (which is to begin tomorrow in Belgrade), Urban said. We hold the opinion that the first such meeting in history will constitute an event not only for the Balkans but also for the whole of Europe.

Whether Walesa Will Receive Passport [subhead]

In reply to a question whether Lech Walesa, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, Bronislaw Gieremek and Bogdan Lis will receive passports to travel to Australia, Urban said: "If Walesa and other receive leave and file passport applications their applications will be considered according to normal procedure."

Ryszard Kapuscinski at Home and in the West [subhead]

In January the British BBC-2 television channel broadcast a programme about the outstanding Polish reporter and writer Ryszard Kapuscinski. The programme contains a scene when the hero driving his car around Warsaw orders cameras to be put away when his car is passing the seat of the Metropolitan Police Department.

This suggests—Urban commented—that filming Kapuscinski is forbidden by the police and gives the work of British television crews a heroic dimension. This is childish. Kapuscinski is not a military object, nor the subject of a state secret. He can be filmed in any spot. Making a place of terror out of Poland misleads British viewers.

The British press describes Kapuscinski as a man who lost his job after the introduction of martial law, is unemployed and cannot work in today's Poland. The Polish Embassy in London also said that in the programme and press opinions it was specifically said that Kapuscinski had been fired from the POLISH PRESS AGENCY.

Kapuscincski left PAP in 1978 out of his own will and moved to the "KULTURA" weekly. At the turn of 1981 the weekly ceased to appear. Beginning in 1982 Kapuscinski received numerous offers of working for Polish radio, PAP, as well the position of chairman of the editorial board of the "REPORTER" magazine. In 1983 I personally offered Kapuscinski a press post abroad. He replied that he did not have the time since he was writing a book. Last year the president of PAP proposed to Kapuscinski the financing of a longer trip to the USSR to write a book on perestroyka. Kapuscinski never accepted these proposals, but neither did he ever refuse them nor motivate his decisions politically. Polish publishers issue his books. State theatres stage their adaptations.

Ryszard Kapuscinski is a free man and can of course do what he wants. However, it was dishonest of British mass media to present him as a person without a possibility of work in Poland and someone who is persecuted, Urban said.

I congratulate Ryszard Kapuscinski on the fame he gained in the West as a writer. It was preceded by a fantastic career as a journalist and writer in Poland. It is not through the fault of Polish authorities or because of Polish relations that careers in Poland and the West instead of running concurrently and supporting each other frequently rule each other out. It is not we who create abnormal relations based on the fact that in order to be published, filmed and praised in the West one must first gain the status of a harmed and persecuted oppositionist. It is the West which creates absolute divisions, sometimes with the use of dishonest allegations.

Criticism of the Government's Information Policy [subhead]

Urban commented on an aggressive article, published in TRYBUNA OPOLSKA by Jacek Szwedkowicz, which attacks the government's information policy and which states that the recalling of Janusz Pawlowski from the post of the minister of labour was insufficiently motivated. Urban explained:

While addressing the Sejm, the premier motivated this change with the abilities and values of the new labour minister Ireneusz Sekula. It should be understood—Urban added—as a step aimed at strengthening the second stage of the reform from the personnel side, the assurance of a higher effectiveness of the realization of the reform in this particularly important ministry, whose activities have a significant influence on the shaping of innovative mechanisms and on the realization of the thoroughly changed policy in the scope of labour relations, as well as on the transformation of social policy.

Wage Increases for the Health Service [subhead]

Urban also addressed the issue of wage increases for health service employees in connection with the fact that strong grievances exist in the milieu to the effect that the way in which these increases were announced was misleading for the milieu. The information was imprecise and lacked a detailed explanation. The average wage rise amounts to 14,900 zlotys per person. It was not explained that this sum included the 6,000 zloty general wage compensation, connected with the price hikes, overtime pay and raises already awarded in November 1987. I feel personally obliged to publicly express regret about the method of information which was clearly contrary to the principles of the honest and open information policy which the government professes and conducts, Urban said.

Asked about subsidies for the government journal "RZECZPOSPOLITA" Urban said that the original intention was to shift the paper to self-financing principles. In the next stage it receives subsidies for specific publications and types of activity. This is, unfortunately, typical of many our savings intentions and intentions of withdrawing subsidies, Urban said. However, ensuing needs force us to award subsidies which ends in an increase expenditure from the national budget.

Answering a question about the detention of 8 solidarity activists over the last weekend Urban said that they were detained in accordance with the powers of the organs of law and order for warning talks. It was known that these persons intended to commit an offence by organizing an illegal meeting. They were warned against doing this in earlier talks. This procedure conforms with the law. The activities of the organ of law and order have a preventive character.

Asked about the fate of cars impounded from people helping in the distribution of illegal publications, Urban replied that confiscation of property occurs when a car—as is the case here—is an instrument of crime or offence. This is the law in Poland. The process of liberalization in Poland does not, to any extent, signify the legalization of the above mentioned undertakings.

Gorbachev Appeal to Azerbaijan, Armenia Noted

LD271030 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0400 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] In connection with the events in Nagorno-Karabakh Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has appealed to the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia to strengthen their friendship. The appeal also states that one of the next plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee will be devoted to the problems of policy on nationalities and the development of nationality relations in the USSR.

Foreign Ministry on Policy of 'Opening Up'

LD281917 Warsaw PAP in English 1814 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 28—Following the establishment of the institution of a press spokesman in the Polish Foreign Ministry, the director of the ministry's press and information department, Stefan Staniszewski, who has been appointed to this post told PAP:

"Foreign Affairs Minister Marian Orzechowski, who is a political scientist by profession, knows that activities conducted with a raised curtain are one of the most important conditions of realizing the goals specified by the policy of renewal.

"We want to inform people about, for example, to what goals are the activities of our diplomacy subordinated. We also want to inform citizens what they can count on in their contacts with employees of the diplomatic service, especially consular employees.

"The creation of the post of the spokesman is, therefore, one of the signs of the socialization of Poland's foreign service. Another one, for example, is the seeking of opinions by the minister as far as foreign policy is concerned. This was served by Marian Orzechowski's recent meeting with the rectors of higher schools. He also asked 70 scholars to give their opinions in a special poll which served this end. The creation of the post of the Foreign Ministry's spokesman should thus be seen in the context of a wider opening up of the diplomatic service."

Further on Orzechowski Talks in India

LD262313 Warsaw PAP in English
2135 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Delhi, Feb. 26—Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs Marian Orzechowski's return visit to India was devoted to seeking ways of cooperation in the light of the positive processes which had been started with the Washington summit.

Polish foreign minister's partner in the talks here was Indian Minister of External Affairs Natwar Singh.

Minister Orzechowski was also received by Rajiv Gandhi. Their talks were creative and non-standard in nature and dealt with prospects of cooperation that would exceed hitherto agreements.

This was one of the visit's major objectives. Poland and India are not two random-chosen countries of two different continents, but two states which play in their respective regions roles that are not questioned by anyone. Marian Orzechowski underscored this in his toast:

"Peace concerns us all, big, medium-sized and small nations. Both our states can and should play a significant part in rapprochement and better understanding between East and West."

On his part, Minister Natwar Singh spoke about mutual inspiration and mutual support of peace initiatives, as in fact the proposals by the Delhi Six and the Jaruzelski Plan are instruments serving materialization of the same vision, which is a vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and violence, as Rajiv Gandhi and Mikhail Gorbachev had described it in their Delhi Declaration of November 1986 when they summed up the experience of two great traditions.

The agenda of the meetings Minister Orzechowski held here included issues of many-year cooperation in detente and specific possibilities of cooperation in those Asian regions where prospects of extinguishing regional hotbeds of conflicts are realistic.

As for apparent results of the talks, they indicate that India's position as Poland's major partner among developing countries has been reinforced.

In his statement for PAP, Natwar Singh emphasized that Indian-Polish relations were characterized by the absence of disputable issues and that Minister Orzechowski's visit, and particularly his talks with Prime Minister Gandhi which resulted in great satisfaction of the Indian side, would contribute to expansion and enhancement of cooperation, which in diplomatese always stands for multi-dimensional progress.

Official Assesses U.S. Scientific Cooperation

AU261535 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
23 Feb 88 p 8

[PAP interview with Jan Padlewski, director of the Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Polish chairman of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation Between the PPR and the United States: "Prospects for Polish-American Scientific and Technical Cooperation"—date and place not given]

[Text] [PAP] You recently became Polish chairman of the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the PPR and the United States. In view of the fact that you hold this position, what is your assessment of prospects for the development of cooperation?

[Padlewski] According to the provisions of the Polish-American agreement on scientific and technical cooperation and its financing—the agreement was signed by last year by Vice President George Bush and Kazimierz Barcikowski, deputy chairman of the State Council—cooperation will be based on the principles of equality, reciprocity, and mutual advantage. It covers practically all fields of science and technology. The fields specified in the agreement include the basic sciences, agriculture, medicine, health care, social work and social rehabilitation, environmental protection, soil science, the use of natural resources, construction, research into sources of energy, transportation, and engineering research.

Cooperation will mainly take the form of research, development, planning, the exchange of specialists and research workers, joint symposiums, scientific conferences, courses, and the exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation.

[PAP] Several months have elapsed since the signing of the document that you mentioned. In view of the increase in activity in Polish-American relations, can we expect swift resumption of contacts between scientific and technical centers in both countries?

[Padlewski] The increased level of activity in political relations that you mentioned—you must be thinking of the visit that Vice President George Bush paid to Poland last September, or the visit that Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead paid in February—will to a certain extent affect scientific and technical relations. A favorable climate in political relations must have some bearing on the areas in which the United States and Poland cooperated before 1982. Cooperation might also be extended to cover other areas.

Overcoming the legacy of the 6 years during which Polish-American cooperation was suspended following the decision made by the U.S. Government and making up the losses that Poland incurred as result will not be something that can be achieved overnight. It takes time for wounds to heal. What is needed is systematic, bilateral work geared toward rebuilding Polish-American relations in various fields, including science and technology. There is no doubt that increased political contacts will assist the expansion of scientific and technical cooperation.

However, it is difficult to talk about a clear breakthrough in this area. This is because although more than 5 months have elapsed since the signing of the agreement, the mechanism for implementing it is still to be set in motion, especially with respect to finance.

[PAP] Might there be a lack of funds for cooperation?

[Padlewski] The agreement envisages the setting up of a joint "Marie Sklodowska-Curie" Fund II, into which the Polish and American sides would pay equal, annual contributions. Unfortunately, because of the procedures followed in the United States, we cannot expect the American side to make a contribution before fall. In accordance with the terms of the agreement, Poland will make its contribution no later than 1 month after the American side. Poland's contribution will be paid in zlotys, and the American side's in zlotys and dollars.

[PAP] Does that mean that those of our scientists wishing to undertake joint research with American scientists, for that is the form of cooperation that will probably prevail, will have to wait another 6 months or more?

[Padlewski] Not quite. Although a real start on broader-scale joint research programs will only be possible when both sides have paid their contributions, research establishments and scientists who wish to complete joint research projects that had to be postponed for lack of funds or start new projects altogether may do so already.

[PAP] Would this be in preparation for the joint projects that are due to start following payment of the appropriate funds?

[Padlewski] Yes. However, it is already possible to finance trips by Polish scientists interested in new projects to the United States and vice versa. There are also enough funds to complete unfinished joint research projects.

I will forestall the next question by saying straightaway that as a result of negotiations with the American side, we have already managed to set aside enough funds to pay for 100 U.S. trips by Polish scientists for this purpose. There are also funds to pay for visits by American scientists to Poland, and these funds are held in the accounts of the First Maria Sklodowska-Curie Fund.

[PAP] Who will decide how to use this money? To whom are Polish scientists interested in establishing cooperation apply?

[Padlewski] According to the agreement, the Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, consisting of Polish and U.S. representatives, is the body that will approve joint research and its estimated costs. It will hold its inaugural meeting in the middle of the year.

However, scientific research establishments may already prepare plans for scientific and technical cooperation. After consulting their American partners, they may present a jointly worked out and jointly approved plan of research with a cost estimate, and present this plan to their respective ministries. In turn, this ministry will check the plan and present it to the joint commission.

[PAP] Did you say that the commission does not exist yet?

[Padlewski] Indeed. The foreign minister has already appointed four members of the commission on the Polish side, but the American side has still not made its selection.

[PAP] So who will belong to it on the Polish side?

[Padlewski] Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of Advancement and Application of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Finance. The agreement on scientific and technical cooperation assigns the Foreign Ministry the role of executive body in implementing it. The U.S. State Department is to play a similar role in the United States. The joint commission will involve itself in planning, coordinating, supervising, and financing Polish-American scientific and technical cooperation. It will meet at least once a year, alternately in Warsaw and in Washington.

[PAP] What about the fact that funds are available for our scientists' trips to the United States, although the U.S. payment into the Second Fund named after M. Sklodowska-Curie will be made in the fall?

[Padlewski] Actually, that payment may be made later than that. The U.S. Congress will determine in the fall the funds to finance scientific cooperation with Poland. The payment of this money may be made at the beginning of 1989.

Funds for current cooperation were negotiated with the delegation of U.S. experts last January. These funds are not enough to promote more extensive cooperation—this will be possible only with the help of the Second Fund—but they should be enough to finance preparations for joint research.

[PAP] Who can be granted these funds? Any priorities in granting these funds?

[Padlewski] Almost every scientific research institute and every individual scientist may apply. Objective considerations will govern decisions.

As I have said, before the joint commission accepts projects for financing, they must first be approved by the U.S. partners in research. This means that projects that have the support of specific partners can count on financial assistance. The commission can help one find subjects for research and partners for cooperation, although this will not be its chief role.

[PAP] Will the people directly concerned decide whether to start research and the connected exchanges of personnel, information, and so on?

[Padlewski] They will decide to a great extent. Ministries and the joint commission can only coordinate and assist. If very many people apply, ministries and the joint commission will select and approve certain research subjects as especially deserving fiscal support. Such decisions will be equally shared by Polish and U.S. members of the commission. However, at the initial period of cooperation (because of the absence of formal links between Polish and U.S. research institutes since all links were broken off by the United States in 1982) it will be mostly the initiative of institutes and scientists that will decide whether they can count on fiscal assistance for joint research projects.

[PAP] Can this be taken as encouragement for scientists to show militancy and to devise joint research projects?

[Padlewski] Painful damage was inflicted in the 6 years during which cooperation was suspended by the United States. We have to repair this damage by a network of bilateral contacts between scientific centers and scientists. Restoring these contacts will certainly be difficult. Years of no contacts have produced negative results, which will be difficult to eliminate. Political decisions and government accords will not be able to do by themselves the work done by daily activities of individuals and institutions, which are able to fill accords with real substance.

In many communities, including scientific ones, the U.S. Government's decisions in 1982 were a shock and produced certain losses. That is why scientists openly admit that they are afraid to commit themselves again to long-term cooperation. The administration of science takes a similar view. Nevertheless, while not forgetting past lessons, we should take advantage of new opportunities for the benefit of our science and country as well as of Polish-U.S. relations.

Reaction to U.S. Criticism of Trade Relations

AU271520 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1400 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Statement on the economic relations of the SR of Romania with the United States of America:

In connection with the U.S. Government's statement of 26 February this year on the most-favored-nation status, the Romanian News Agency AGERPRES has been empowered to state the following:

The SR of Romania has always made efforts to develop economic and scientific-technical relations of cooperation with all states, irrespective of social system and without any kind of conditions, on the basis of the principles of full equality of rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, and mutual advantage in conformity with the unanimously recognized international norms and with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—GATT.

In this spirit, Romania has promoted a policy of expanding and diversifying its economic and trade relations with the United States of America as well. These relations have been based on the agreements concluded and the accords signed by the governments of the two countries. Under an agreement on trade relations between the SR of Romania and the United States of America concluded on 2 April 1975, Romania and the United States of America granted each other most-favored-nation status.

Romania has completely fulfilled its obligations under this agreement and has worked to constantly develop relations between the two countries. Conversely, the United States of America—invoking the unilaterally adopted Jackson Vanik Amendment—made the annual granting of this status contingent upon a number of political demands, a procedure which is an unacceptable interference in Romania's domestic affairs and is by no means linked to the trade relations between Romania and the United States of America.

Moreover, certain hostile circles opposing the development of Romanian-American relations used the annual renewal of this status as a means to slander and interfere in Romania's domestic affairs. Thus, the discussions about the status turned into an impediment in promoting bilateral relations.

The Romanian Government has repeatedly drawn the U.S. Government's attention to the fact that Romania will no longer tolerate such an approach to relations between the two countries, which constitutes a violation of the principles and norms of international relations, of the trade accord, and is at variance with GATT regulations to which both countries are contracting sides.

Taking account of this situation, Romania has informed the U.S. Government that it no longer accepts the renewal of the status subject to the terms of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and has requested that talks should open on developing economic relations in conformity with the provisions of the existing trade accord by ruling out any kind of conditions.

Before bilateral consultations were held to clarify problems linked to the granting of the most-favored-nation status and to further developing economic relations, the U.S. Government issued a statement on 26 February this year announcing that beginning 3 July this year Romania's most-favored-nation status will expire, that customs duties and tariffs will be increased, and that other economic-financial measures will be adopted in its relations with Romania.

In view of the measures announced by the United States of America, the Romanian Government once again states that it does not wish to have the most-favored-nation status subject to the Jackson Vanik Amendment and that, in turn, it will examine the problem of applying this status granted to the United States of America, the customs duties and tariffs, and other facilities deriving thereof for U.S. imports to Romania.

The Romanian Government believes that it is necessary for the representatives of the two countries to meet as soon as possible to discuss ways and means to develop trade exchanges and economic cooperation between the two countries in the future.

The SR of Romania will continue to act to develop Romanian-American economic relations on the basis of the generally recognized principles of international law, equality of rights, and mutual advantage. Romania expresses its conviction that the United States of America will show constructive spirit of cooperation and collaboration that will permit the sides to seek solutions designed to eliminate any kind of obstacles in the road of developing the traditional Romanian-American relations to the benefit of the two countries and peoples, of the cause of peace and international cooperation.

AGERPRES Satisfied With Balkans Meeting

AU281846 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1721 GMT 28 Feb 88

["An Important Step Toward Promoting Inter-Balkan Good Neighbour Relations and Multilateral Collaboration"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 28/02/1988—The Bucharest daily SCINTEIA publishes on February 28 an extensive commentary in connection with the works of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers, which reads inter alia:

It can be noted with satisfaction that the meeting proceeded in a constructive atmosphere, allowing for a free and wide exchange of views on the various ways and means of expanding the collaboration in domains of mutual interest. This positive atmosphere, the diversity of the proposals advanced and their concrete character mirrored the wish to develop the good neighbourhood, disclosing telling evolutions toward the establishment of a new climate, toward the grasping of the truth that it is only by means of dialogue and mutual receptiveness that progress can be marked toward the consolidation and deepening of collaboration. All this emphasizes still more how important it would be to turn to practice Socialist Romania's proposal on the organization of a Balkan summit. Through the participation of the factors that vail of decision-making power and of the capability to endorse important and wide-range measures, such a meeting would be the fittest framework apt to actuate and ensure the full efficiency of the actions for turning the Balkans into a zone of peace, cooperation and security.

Peace, disarmament and security are fundamental desiderata of the Balkan peoples, as well as of all peoples in the world, and, in this frame, SCINTEIA goes on, the turning of the Balkans into a nuclear-weapon free zone—a major objective steadily advocated by Romania, would be a highly important action. A first contribution in this sense would be that the Balkan countries that have nuclear weapons in their territory should no longer continue the emplacement of more such weapons and the modernization of the ones in place. Fitting in the same line would be the achievement of a chemical-weapon free zone in the Balkans. At the Belgrade meeting Romania proposed the furthering of the dialogue on this matter, even within a new expert meeting to the end of agreeing upon and endorsing a solemn declaration that should sanction the will of the countries in the Balkans not to produce, possess or acquire chemical weapons. Another important step toward the achievement in our geographic region of a zone of peace and collaboration would be the elimination of the foreign military bases and troops. The translation into life of all these measures would set a worthy following example, apt to speed up the achievement of such zones also in other parts of the continent, as a very important part of the general process of building European security, SCINTEIA adds.

The daily then notes with reference to the economic issues discussed there that the mutual reduction of custom duties among the Balkan countries would lead, as a first step in view of eliminating some barriers from commercial relations, to the powerful and permanent development of the goods exchanges, to the ever wider capitalization of the important reserves at hand in this domain.

SCINTEIA also highlights the importance of the proposals for the development of collaboration in communications, transport, agriculture, water resources, etc., as well as of those regarding the intensification of collaboration in science and technology, peak technology included, in culture, health, sports, tourism and information, environmental protection. All this, the Romanian daily emphasizes, are meant to help an ever closer rapprochement and better mutual acquaintance among the peoples in the area, greater mutual understanding and confidence.

SCINTEIA concludes: According to Romania, that has steadily declared not only for permanent contacts but also for their institutionalization, through the establishment of adequate structures, the increase or reactuation and intensification of the activity of some permanent specialized bodies of cooperation, either governmental or non-governmental—national committees, conferences, meetings, associations—are of great importance for the ever more powerful affirmation of the spirit of inter-Balkan cooperation, and the proposals advanced at the meeting in this respect are opportune. At the same time, an important achievement is the agreement in principle meant to ensure the follow-up of the foreign ministers' meetings, their periodical organization by rotation in every Balkan country.

USSR's Vedernikov Pays Official Visit

Meets With Constantinescu

AU262005 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1858 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/2/1988—During the working meetings held, in Bucharest, between Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Constantinescu, and G.G. Vedernikov, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, in the spirit of the long-term programme on developing the economic, technological and scientific collaboration between Romania and the Soviet Union, the sides agreed upon concrete measures and actions regarding a further development of collaboration and cooperation in domains of joint interest, as well deepening the specialization in production, enhancing and diversifying the mutual exchanges of goods.

Meets With Ceausescu

AU262006 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1935 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/2/1988—Friday, 26 February, RCP General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu, president of Romania, received G.G. Vedernikov, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, who visited Romania.

The guest conveyed to President Nicolae Ceausescu a cordial salute on behalf of general secretary of the CC of the CPSU Mikhail Gorbachev.

Nicolae Ceausescu thanked and asked that Mikhail Gorbachev be conveyed a warm salute and best wishes.

During the interview the sides evoked the relations of tight friendship and collaboration between the two countries and peoples, which continuously grow and become stronger, in the spirit of the understandings established on the occasion of the summit interviews. In this context the sides underscored possibilities extant for a further expansion of the economic, technological and scientific collaboration, of cooperation and specialization in production, for enhancing and expanding the commercial exchanges, upon mutually-advantageous bases, between Romania and the Soviet Union.

Romania's president highlighted the need for new actions to be initiated, meant to ensure the implementation, under the best circumstances, of the cooperation goals agreed upon, of the provisions in the long-term programme for development of the economic, technological and scientific collaboration between Romania and the USSR until the year 2000.

The sides considered that a sustained promotion of the Romanian-Soviet collaboration was in the advantage of and served both countries and peoples, the cause of socialism, progress and peace.

Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Constantinescu participated in the interview.

PEC Meeting Examines Decree on Amnesty

AU262045 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1945 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Meeting of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/02/1988—The Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP held a meeting on Friday, February 26, under the chairmanship of Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party.

The Executive Political Committee debated several reports on the activity carried through in 1987 for the fulfilment of major economic indicators, as well as on the conclusion of contracts for the production and projects under the 1988 plan in industry, investment and construction.

Members of the Executive Political Committee and of the government took the floor and they referred to the reports under debate.

The party general secretary, Nicolae Ceausescu, requested that all conclusions should be drawn from last year's activity and shortfalls. The need was underscored for action to attain planned parameters on all commissioned units, as well as on the units to be put on line, to use machinery, equipment and installations at the highest levels of efficiency, to continuously update fixed assets, to perform on-time, quality overhauling operations with a view to ensuring the smooth run of the entire production activity.

President Nicolae Ceausescu also stressed the need to cut back on the consumption of raw and subsidiary materials, of fuel and energy and to boost productivity, in line with the provisions under the special programme in force, to rapidly conclude 1988 contracts, showing that conditions were in place for the fulfilment of the important tasks set for the ongoing year.

Discussing the report on the evolution of prices and tariffs in 1987, the Executive Political Committee considered the situation in the area as fine, with the prices and tariffs maintained last year below the planned level. In broad lines, prices were maintained at the same level and, in some fields, went down; there was no price rise over the interval, which bespeaks their stability and the correctness of the steps taken along this line, as well as the soundness of the national economy. It was recommended that further action should be taken to strictly apply all the measures that were agreed upon, with a view to placing prices within the limits set under the 1988 plan, to maintaining and consolidating their stability.

The Excutive Political Committee further discussed a report on the results of the animal census taken on February 1 this year, as well as the programme of measures for livestock in 1988. The fact was emphasized that as against the census taken on February 1, 1987 livestock in the agriculture as a whole increased with most of the species.

Analysing the results scored, the Executive Political Committee considered them as unsatisfactory, more particularly, as concerned cattle and sheep, where they are below possibilities, below the requirements of the new agrarian revolution.

In connection with the questions approached, the Executive Political Committee endorsed a programme of measures for livestock in 1988 and requested that with that as a basis action be taken everywhere for the fulfilment of the provisions under the plan in animal breeding.

The Executive Political Committee also heard a report on the application of the provisions of the recent decree on amnesty granted to a number of offences and the reduction of sentences.

The Executive Political Committee considered that measure, taken upon the initiative and proposal of the party general secretary, Nicolae Ceausescu, to accord with the

humanitarian policy promoted by the Romanian party and state. The respective step was well received by the public opinion in this country and enjoyed strong reverberation abroad.

Benefitting from the effects of that step were roughly 90 per cent of the persons that had been sentenced or were under investigation. So far, almost all the persons released were assigned a job, performing a useful activity, being socio-professionally integrated and positively influenced with a view to preventing them from committing further antisocial deeds. It was pointed out that emphasis should be placed on on-the-job reeducation, on the enhancement of the educative role of the collectivities of working people, of the family and of society in fighting and preventing any violation of the laws of the state and of the norms of social life. It was agreed in principle that the situation in that area be reviwed and the criminal code correspondingly amended.

During the meeting, the party general secretary proposed that the legal provisions concerning the death sentence should be reexamined, so that that sentence be maintained exceptionally, for a limited number of highly serious offences against state security and the country's sovereignty.

The Executive Political Committee further analysed a report on the evolution of the major demographic phenomena in 1987. According to the data in the report, birth rate last year registered a positive course as against 1986.

The Executive Political Committee requested the higher health council, the ministry of health, the health directorates and the entire medical and nursing staff to work most responsibly for the unswerving implementation of the party and state policy in the demographic area. The need was emphasized for every step to firmly apply legal provisions concerning demographic growth, the rise in the birth rate, the protection and consolidation of the family, the improvement of the population's heaith condition, the attainment of a new quality in health care, thus providing for the maintenance of the vigour and youthfulness of the entire nation. The Ministry of Health was requested to submit a palpable programme of measures in march, intended to boost natality and diminish the death rate, provide for a natural population growth.

The Executive Political Committee also examined a report on the activity of solving the proposals, intimations, complaints and applications of the working people addressed to the party leadership, to local party and state bodies, to mass and public organizations, to the press, the radio and television in 1987. Approving that report, the Executive Political Committee decided that it should be submitted to the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee for approval.

The Executive Political Committee also discussed questions related to Romania's international relations, as well as other routine matters of party and state activity.

Gorbachev To Visit SFRY in Mid-March

LD291404 Moscow TASS in English
1359 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 29 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, will pay an official friendly visit to Yugoslavia in mid-March at the invitation of the collective Presidency of Yugoslavia and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

Dizdarevic Comments on Balkans Meeting

LD262143 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1906 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, February 26 (TANJUG)—The Belgrade Balkan foreign ministerial meeting is building up a propitious political climate and opening up prospects for a successful development of multilateral cooperation in fields in which joint interests and needs exist, it was evaluated here today by Raif Dizdarevic, vice-president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, and the Balkan foreign ministers taking part in this meeting.

The Belgrade meeting is, at the same time, substantially contributing to cooperation and a climate of confidence and understanding in Europe and in the world, it was pointed out.

In proposing a toast at the luncheon in honour of the Balkan foreign ministers, Dizdarevic emphasised that the Belgrade meeting means a very important first step in developing joint dialogues among the Balkan countries, their multilateral cooperation and in strengthening a spirit of mutual respect and appreciation.

Dizdarevic raised an initiative for this meeting while being Yugoslavia's foreign minister.

In Belgrade, it was achieved more than could be expected before, he evaluated. [sentence as received]

The past was not inclined to us, but these days we have confirmed our joint wish for not having this past limit us, the Yugoslav vice-president stressed.

On this occasion, Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov paid tribute on behalf of all Balkan foreign ministers to Yugoslavia for its initiative to have this gathering held and for creating necessary conditions for its successful work. He laid special emphasis on his former counterpart Dizdarevic's personal contribution to it.

Today, when ways are being sought for strengthening confidence, security and peace as well as for a constructive dialogue, the Belgrade meeting is opening up a real chance for the Balkans, situated at a geographical and political crossroads of importance, to meet the challenges of times, Mladenov emphasised.

Press Reacts to Balkans Meeting

Widespread 'Satisfaction' Seen

LD281729 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1540 GMT 28 Feb 88

[By Nebojsa Magdeski]

[Text] Belgrade, February 28 (TANJUG)—The meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers recently held in Belgrade was an event which found itself in the focus of attention not only of the Balkan but also the world public. Satisfaction with the successful work and outcome of the Balkan ministerial meeting is obvious in the Balkan countries and, judging from reports carried by other foreign media, the new form of cooperation among the Balkan countries has met with the undivided sympathies and approval across the world.

There was hardly a foreign newspaper or news agency which did not cover the Belgrade meeting and stress that a turn for the better was underway in the Balkans, a chronically neuralgic part of Europe. Headlines such as "New Winds in the Balkans" or "The Balkan Peninsula No Longer a Powder Keg" reflected the predominating assessment in foreign news reports and commentaries. The Balkans could be called "a peninsula of good will" after the Belgrade meeting, many foreign media set out.

The fact that messages with best wishes were sent to the Belgrade meeting by many foreign statesmen and politicians, from U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, to a group of retired NATO generals and admirals, is evidence that the Balkan meeting was very carefully followed by political circles outside the Balkans, too.

An illustration of that fact is the statement released by the European Community, saying that the E.C. ministers would at their first upcoming meeting in constance review the results of the Belgrade meeting and its political initiatives and take a position on them.

A review of the numerous foreign news commentaries on the work and results of the Belgrade meeting of the foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia shows that there were virtually no negative or sceptical assessments. The integrating process in Europe and beyond and the amosphere of general detente have no doubt also been responsible for the fact that the world carefully followed the first attempt at "a Balkan detente" in Belgrade.

Compliments and recognition were paid to Yugoslavia, as the initiator and host of the Balkan ministerial meeting. Foreign media characterized as a great diplomatic feat of non-aligned Yugoslavia the fact that it succeeded in bringing together to the negotiating table the diverse and controversial Balkans—two of whose states, Greece and Turkey, are members of NATO, two, Romania and

Bulgaria, members of the rival Warsaw pact, and one, Albania, is a country which has been living in self-imposed isolation up to now.

The foreign media and political circles, which expressed sympathies and best wishes for inter-Balkan cooperation, will no doubt continue carefully to follow further processes in the Balkans. Judging by the atmosphere in which the Balkan foreign ministers parted yesterday, all conditions exist for the good start made in Belgrade to be put to the best possible use.

Papers React

LD281513 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1430 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 28 (TANJUG)—The first Balkan ministerial meeting, held here from February 24 to 26, is still in the focus of the Yugoslav press which unanimously assesses that its results justified Yugoslavia's initiative for its convening.

Belgrade daily VECERNJE NOVOSTI underlines the meeting's European dimensions, noting that integration processes and currents in Europe—not only ideological and economic—show that the Balkans must first homogenize itself and become a place of negotiation and understanding, showing its maturity and readiness to face current developments, if it wants to secure a place on the European train for the 21st century.

The Balkan Peninsula can therefore become an oasis of peace and agreement, and the very awareness of this which dominated the meeting justifies our optimism, VECERNJE NOVOSTI writes.

Recalling that although considerable success was achieved in the general debate and in individual talks the ministers parted without setting the date and venue of the next meeting, POLITIKA EKSPRES of Belgrade notes that the atmosphere during the meeting, as one of the participants described it, "enabled everyone not only to become aware of the need for cooperation, but also to see that this may be achieved easily and pleasantly."

Something new, which marks the beginning of a positive process which cannot be stopped, has happened in the Balkans, POLITIKA EKSPRES says.

It stresses that most of the credit for this should go to Yugoslavia as the initiator and organizer of the meeting. This is also the unanimous opinion of all the participants who did not spare compliments and congratulations to the host country for all it had done to enable the first meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers in history.

In an extensive commentary with historical facts on relations in the Balkans, Belgrade daily POLITIKA notes that readiness for cooperation and determination to push into the background the historical complexes of inferior Balkan disputes and the washing of dirty linen in front of the often cynical world, were evident during the meeting.

POLITIKA says that the Belgrade meeting was unanimously seen as an opportunity to demonstrate diplomatic maturity and wisdom in the careful avoiding of "under-water mines which can still be found in the Balkans' waters." In Belgrade, the ministers devoted more energy to areas where cooperation is possible than to what could have immediately evoked the time when the peninsula was Europe's "powder keg," POLITIKA concludes.

Balkan Cooperation Foreseen

LD261324 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1206 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 26 February (TANJUG)—Hopes for possible realistic cooperation between Balkan countries got a strong boost today with the successful outcome of the first ever meeting of foreign ministers from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Three day of deliberations in Belgrade 'Sava Center' at which concrete proposals were brought up have shown that there is a lot of space for cooperation between countries that have so often been at odds in the turbulent history of the peninsula.

More important than the final document are perhaps the proposals heard in the Yugoslav capital which were, without any doubt, subject of intensive exchange of views behind closed doors at informal meetings of the ministers.

These proposals ranged from strengthening of security in the Balkans to economic cooperation. One of the proposals was the establishment of a direct 'hot line' between the leaders of all Balkans countries, their ministers of defence and commands of border units.

Having in mind that Romania and Bulgaria are members of Warsaw Pact, Greece and Turkey of NATO, that Albania is not a official member of any alliance and that the host Yugoslavia is non-aligned, this proposal aimed at avoidance of incidents was received with special interest.

Obviously, as it was stated in the final document, the ministers will continue discussion on this very important matter.

Economic cooperation was, intentionaly or not, in the focus of attention. Concrete proposal such as the creation of Balkan common economic interests do exist as well as possibilities for a relatively speedy development of economic relations.

The good and constructive mood of the meeting was not spoiled by outstanding issues such as national minorities which obviously must be tackled in the future. These issues will, obviously be dealt with easier if the constructive atmosphere prevailing at Belgrade meeting continues and turns into constructive steps. The decision to hold regular meetings of foreign ministers and other high officials will not doubt help in solving these and other matters.

Foreign press has termed the Belgrade meeting a historic one. Whether it will really be historic or not depends mostly, if not only, on the will and ability of Balkan countries to continue the process started in Belgrade.

The cordial and businesslike atmosphere at Belgrade meeting has laid down good foundations for future cooperation in the Balkans. With the mood of good will Balkan foreign ministers will be leaving Belgrade although no one has illusions that the road ahead will be an easy one.

TANJUG Notes 'Ethnic Problems' in USSR

LD271250 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1110 GMT 27 Feb 88

["Soviet Union: Ethnic Disputes or Resistance to Perestroyka"—TANJUG headline; by Aleksandar Novacic]

[Text] Moscow, Feb 27 (TANJUG)—Over the past few days ethnic problems have been smoldering in two opposite parts of the Soviet Union—in the north and south.

Residents of the Baltic republics are again raising "historical issues," organizing rallies and conducting political and ideological campaigns questioning the legality of the 1940 Ribbentrop-Molotov agreement under which Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became part of the Soivet Union.

In the south, an autonomous region in the Republic of Azerbaijan with a predominantly Armenian population demands to be annexed to the Republic of Armenia, although it has never been part of it since the two republics were formed in 1920.

While "Baltic issues" are more or less openly debated and analyzed, together with causes and possible consequences of the campaigns whose threads lead outside the boundaries of the Soviet Union, the situation in the south is more uncertain and less is known about it.

It is known that there have been riots, demonstrations and protests prompting action by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. Regional party committees and offices of the public attorney seem to be very busy.

The Soviet news agency TASS reports that Armenians from the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region demand to be annexed to Armenia "because of economic backwardness." However, official sources denied these claims, quoting fitures which show that the predominantly industrial region recorded faster average growth rate than the Republic of Azerbaijan as a whole.

On the basis of scarce information it could be concluded that there is certain economic and probably also political dissatisfaction among the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh. The regional party secretary was sacked and replaced by an Armenian national.

In any case, developments in Azerbaijan require a deeper analysis and further explanation.

All these developments, however, have deeper roots. This was recently very openly elaborated by Estonia's Presidium President Arnold Ryuytel.

He said in a local television broadcast that there was a connection between problems in the republic, including the national ones, and perestroyka. He said that mistakes in the economic policy and the national question had "cost very much" and that "false and one-sided presentation of historical facts" had so far been tolerated.

He warned, however, that historical issues are now used to foment social problems which can only be described as the "struggle against the course of perestroyka."

This can only result in the slowing down of the process of democratization, the Estonian leader said.

Ryuytel said there was a paradoxical link between bureaucracy, speculators and conservative forces which now use ethnic clashes to discredit perestroyka and democratization.

This line of thinking seems to be quite logical, particularly in view of the fact that it is officially admitted that the national question has not been settled once for all and that it has to be tackled again with each new stage.

It is evident that there are many problems in this sphere and that owing to democratization and glasnost they have become more visible. But it may also be claimed that opponents of perestroyka are trying to link it with all problems which they believe could compromise or stop the process of reconstruction in the Soviet Union.

'Hostile' Croatian Flags at Olympics Decried

LD261308 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1152 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Calgary, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Olympic Committee and the leadership of the Yugoslav delegation at the 15th Winter Olympic Games here have

lodged an official protest with the games organizing committee over the appearance of flags hostile to Yugoslavia at events where Yugoslav athletes have taken part.

During the individual 90-meter ski jumping competition and the winners ceremony, in which Yugoslav competitor Matjaz Debelak took the bronze medal, flags of the so-called "Independent State of Croatia" were twice hoisted among the spectators.

The puppet creation, set up during World War Two by the fascist Ustasha organization with the help of the Nazi occupiers in the area of today's Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, was the perpetrator of a genocide of Jews, Serbs and Romanies in its notorious concentration camps.

A relatively small number of Yugoslav emigres in Canada are sympathisers of the Ustasha movement, the post-war remnants of which are organized in the form of terrorist groups acting against socialist Yugoslavia.

Games Committee President Billy Pratt has promised he would do all in his power to prevent such cases from happening again.

SPIEGEL Waldheim Telex Not in Archive

LD261428 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1336 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 26 (TANJUG)—The archives of the Yugoslav Armed Forces hold neither the original nor a copy of the telegram published in DER SPIEGEL, but one of the documents kept there was used as a basis for the forged paper which accused Austrian President Kurt Waldheim of being active in the Balkans during World War Two as a Wehmacht officer, Colonel Sekula Joksimovic, head of the Military Historical Institute in Belgrade, told TANJUG.

The interview was made after some Yugoslav papers mentioned the archives as a possible place for keeping the alleged original of the telegram no. 1100 dated 22 July 1942, implicating that a Lieutanant Kurt Waldheim was responsible for the deportation of 4,224 civilians, mostly women and children from Mt Kozara in Yugoslavia.

Noting that each of the 150 million or so documents in the archives is microfilmed and, for security reasons, stored in different places, Colonel Joksimovic indirectly ruled out the possibility that the original of the telegram published in DER SPIEGEL might have been taken out of the archives and that no trace of it remains.

The head of the Military Historical Institute also said that a team of experts established that another telegram (also bearing number 1100 and dated 7 July 1942) was used as a basis for forging the document which caused quite a storm at the time when an international panel of historians were investigating Walheim's wartime past earlier this year.

He confirmed that, according to the archives' registry, the document, which is in no way similar to the falsified one, was taken out in January this year, but that it has not been returned yet. However, the document is stored on microfilm and, owing to the very accurate records of the archives' users, the identity of the person who took it will soon be determined, said Joksimovic.

Spanish TV Researching Waldheim's 'Crimes'

LD281631 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1523 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 28 28 (TANJUG)—Notable Spanish TV foreign-political commentator Julio Sierra Banajas, heading his TV team, these days has been in northwestern Bosnia, Yugoslavia, to make a TV story on the World-War-II past of present Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

The Belgrade POLITIKA paper today says the TV team was around the town of Prijedor where Banajas interviewed people who witnessed a German offensive at Mt Kozara in 1942, followed by large-scale fascist deportations of local people to concentration camps.

POLITIKA also writes that Julio Banajas said he had discovered facts of Waldheim's direct participation in crimes against population.

The story is scheduled to be shown on Spanish TV on March 6.

Federal Chamber Discusses Militia Abuses

AU271715 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian
21 Feb 88 p 8

[Branka Kaljevic article: "(Mis)Use of the Militia"]

[Text] Viktorija Potocnik, delegate to the Federal Chamber, succeeded at the last Federal Chamber session in keeping the "Vevcani incident" open, at least as far as the SFRY Assembly is concerned. Or more precisely, that the justification of ordering the local militia to intervene with electric prods against the assembled people, including women and children be reexamined. Potocnik was in fact repeating her proposal which was referred to the president of the Federal Chamber six months ago, that the Assembly should form a working group to inquire among local people into the whole incident, so that "the intervention of the militia with electric prods does not became a general trial for their more widespread use."

The ever more frequent remarks and complaints of citizens against militia intervention were the reason why the delegates of the Federal Chamber's Internal Policy Committee placed on the agenda the analysis of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs of how the question of militia intervention and the use of means of coercion is regulated in the republics and provinces. This study is scheduled to be completed in March.

Public security, which includes the use of the militia, is a matter for the republics, and occasionally for communes. It is established according to the special laws governing internal affairs. The use of means of coercion is also regulated by specific rules.

It is therefore no wonder that public security is protected in different ways in different parts of the country and that militia intervention is carried out by different means of coercion on different occasions. Judging by the petitions referred to the SFRY Assembly, people increasingly react to militia intervention as a form of protecting public security. At moments when conflicts between people and the militia arise, it is largely forgotten that the organs of the Secretariat for Internal Affairs [SIA] are merely carrying out their orders. Those who give orders for militia intervention and take decisions on this matter remain largely shielded from public dissatisfaction, as if they do not need to render an account to anybody. They even ignore the SFRY Assembly's calls for precise answers as to why such orders were given. If the delegates from the competent authorities in Macedonia and the commune of Struga were given the correct answer to this question, the "Vevcani incident" would probably have been fully settled by now to the mutual satisfaction of both the delegates and the people of the village of Vevcani. But, despite people's immense dissatisfaction, the above mentioned communal assembly did not find it necessary to reexamine the decision on militia intervention made by the communal executive council. The Macedonian Assembly, to whom the SFRY Assembly directly appealed, was not forthcoming either.

Who therefore can estimate responsibility and establish the legality of orders which, on the excuse of protecting public security, send armed militia units against people insisting on their rights. In the case of the Vevcani incident, the Federal SIA immediately replied to the Yugoslav Assembly that the militia in Vevcani had not exceeded their powers. It remarked that this incident was not within its competence, and that the reply it sent to the Assembly was based on a report by the Macedonian SIA.

In Mosevac, in a further "incident" which has come to the SFRY Assembly, the militia blockaded the village and questioned 300 inhabitants merely because these villagers wished to know what had happened to their voluntary contributions to build roads and a culture hall, and had convened a gathering. There was also interrogation and maltreatment at Milici, whose inhabitants also came to the SFRY Assembly for protection. In all three serious cases the commune came into conflict with its inhabitants. Are people right to ask questions, to point to cases of injustice, and mistakes of the authorities? If we judge by the laws of this country, nobody denies these rights, but local big shots largely pursue their own policies.

Even delegates to the SFRY Assembly do not remain beyond the reach of local and sometimes republican authorities. Thus NOVA MAKEDONIJA recently interpreted Viktorija Potocnik's demand for the reopening of the "Vevcani incident" as an abuse of a delegate's speech.

It is also not surprising that people come to the SFRY Assembly more and more frequently. The procedure for examining complaints within the competences of the SFRY Assembly is very complicated and prolonged. The SFRY Assembly is obliged to refer every petition to the competent authorities in the republics and provinces, which is to say to those authorities from whom injured local people have earlier sought justice. Those who come to the Assembly are aware of this. But they also know that their pain and troubles will be given the greatest publicity. It is then certainly easier to await a result calmly and patiently.

One thing is certain. There are considerable numbers of people who give orders for militia involvement in order to protect themselves, not public security.

Croatian Interior Secretary on 'Crisis'

LD262324 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1741 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Zagreb, 26 (TANJUG)—It is difficult to make optimistic evaluations in this crisis situation, but it is a fact that a great majority of Yugoslavs have opted for self-management socialism and precisely for the kind of self-management socialism we are building. This was stated this afternoon in his interview with Radio Zagreb by Vilim Mulc, the republican secretary for internal affairs and a member of the Croat Executive Council, in the ambit of his evaluation of the security and political situation in Croatia.

The protagonists of Croat nationalism in 1971 and of the "mass movement" are very active even today, although many of them have served sentences. Apart from them Serb nationalists are also active, so much so that Tito, Bakaric, and Kardelj, as the people who created the socialist system, are being attacked fairly openly. In addition to these enemy structures the structures from a section of the Catholic Church and of the Orthodox church, which operate from opposition positions, are emerging as well. The bureaucratic and dogmatic forces, which are hardly more difficult to identify, are also emerging, said Mulc, among other things.

Church Activity in Croatia Examined

LD281427 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0137 GMT 28 Feb 88

[By Sava Tomasevic]

[Text] Zagreb, 28 Feb (TANJUG)—The overall relations with religious communities in the Socialist Republic of Croatia have a constantly positive trend thanks to the democratic regulation of religious freedoms and religious equality within the framework of the development of our overall rights and freedoms and our principled policy in this area.

The promotion of these relations is also greatly contributed to by a great majority of believers' positive orientation and active attitude toward self-management and our socialist reality.

This assessment was given in a compehensive report on the position and activity of religious communities in the Socialist Republic of Croatia prepared by the Commission for Relations with Religious Communities of the Croatian Executive Council adopted during the last Croatian Assembly session.

In keeping with legislation and our constitution, religious beliefs are treated as a private matter of individuals and are in keeping with the principle of separation of religious communities and the state. However, this does not exclude religious communities and believers from the life of our self-managing socialist society.

At the moment, there operate 24 religious communities in the Socialist Republic of Croatia; and they are absolutely equal in terms of their rights regardless of their size. They organize religious education, establish schools for the clergy, have their own faculties and institutes, construct religious buildings, and publish many religious papers, books, and other publications.

The assessment has been made that there have been restrictions in these religious affairs, but this has happened only sporadically and when limits were overstepped. These were individual cases in which the bounds of religious activity were overstepped and religion and religious sentiments were abused for political ends.

Other data show that in the Socialist Republic of Croatian there are a total of 9 secondary religious schools with 732 pupils, and 8 institutions of higher learning with about 500 regular and part-time students.

Out of that total, seven secondary schools and five institutions of higher learning belong to the Catholic Church—numerically the largest religious community—one secondary school belongs to the Serbian Orthodox Church, and one to the Christian Adventist church.

Many priests have taken part in the discussions held so far in Croatia and especially in the Socialist Alliance's Committee for the Social Questions on religion. The view has crystallized that the social rights of young people attending religious schools should be on an equal footing with other pupils and students in our society. This will help resolve questions of their social insurance, public transportation facilities, and also their health and retirement insurance.

Sixty-two newspapers are printed by religious communities in the Socialist Republic of Croatia, of which 53 belong to the Catholic Church. They include official papers published by the archdioceses and dioceses, by various religious orders, shrines, deaneries, and parishes. They are distributed within the precincts of religious buildings as laid down by law. The law stipulates that papers of religious content many be printed, but their abuse for political ends is forbidden. However, attention has been drawn in the Socialist Republic of Croatia to the fact that the question of cases of a religious community publishing a nonreligious article in its newspaper has not yet been legally settled. This legal loophole makes it possible for religious communities to also publish material of a political nature which does not abuse the freedom of the press but which does overstep the established bounds of the newspapaper publishing activity of religious communities.

The social and charitable activity of religious communities is another point. According to the discussions so far, on general principles, this activity should be incorporated in the society's overall efforts in the area of social welfare. The way the social and welfare activity is now carried out cannot be considered a religious activity under the law.

Apart from this, there are a number of other nonreligious activities by religious communities. For example, there is the increasingly frequent organization of various platforms for young people and other ways of organizing the law movement. It is believed that this activity is undeniably not in keeping with the law, or rather, with the constitutional function of religious communities.

The point is that the nonreligious activity of the Catholic Church in Croatia in many areas is outside or on the very edge of legal provisions, but reaction on the whole is restricted to cases where the norms have been overstepped to an excessive degree. The extensive report by the Commission for Relations with religious communities provides information showing that in the period between 1981 and mid-1987 234 applications for permission to build or reconstruct religious buildings were submitted of which 211 applications were approved and only 23 were rejected. The report also refers to irregularities arising when other projects are under construction, for instance when attempts are made to build without a building permit.

The Commission for Relations with Religious Communities of the Socialist Republic of Croatia also has begun an analysis of the legal position of religious communities with the object of changing and amending the law on the legal position of religious communities and other regulations in this area. Discussions on this are under way, during which many problems have been noted which it would be good to resolve more adequately. Among these is the question of the rights of those attending schools. For example, there is also the fact that some monastery communities are involved in tourism. The use of various symbols—banners, coats of arms and the like, which as a rule have national charactistics—is also controversial. Some tax problems as well as some problems connected with publishing and the like are also included here.

Many examples in the Socialist Republic of Croatia provide evidence for correct relations with religious communities. However, the report also draws attention

to the fact that there have been manifestations of tension, politicization of specific cases and malicious interpretations of them, where attempts are sometimes made to divide the citizens among religous lines and even pit them against the political system.

The report adopted by the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Croatia concludes by stressing that contacts with religious communities must be regular and not merely a matter of courtesy, but essentially businesslike. It is a good idea to have talks on everything which could hamper the implementation of social policy in relation to the religious communities. It has also been shown in practice that meetings and talks between representatives of our social communities and priests at all levels helps in the solution of all the issues that can emerge as an obstacle to correct relations.

The recent discussion in the Committee for the Social Questions of Religion of the Republican Conference of the Croatian SAWP demonstrated where the best place for such talks is. At that meeting the priests and other representatives of various religious communities in this republic accounted for over half of the participants in the discussion. That meeting was totally frank and held in an atmosphere of complete respect for everything said. The intention is for all the problems to be resolved democratically and for both our social community and religious communities to contribute fully.

Kosovo Presidency Defends Vlasi

AU261735 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] At its session today, the Presidium of the Provincial Committee of the LC of Kosovo assessed that the attacks, disparagements, insults, and gross insinuations directed at Azem Vlasi by some organs and individuals in Macedonia are the result of an insufficiently authentic and incomplete presentation of one of his public statements. As such, these attacks are unacceptable and harmful.

The Presidium accepted the explanation Azem Vlasi made for the public, and considered that the dispute or misunderstanding should thus be overcome.

Kovoso LC Clears Azem Vlasi of Charges

LD291114 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1319 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Pristina, 26 Feb (TANJUG)—The Presidium of the Provincial Committee of the Kosovo LC at its session today said that the attacks, accusations, insults, and insinuations directed against Azem Vlasi, which were instigated by certain organs and individuals from the Socialist Republic of Macedonia because of an insufficiently authentic and incomplete representation of one of his public statements, are unacceptable and damaging.

The Presidium accepted the public explanation given by Azem Vlasi and considers that with this the disagreement and misunderstanding should be overcome.

Kosovo Assembly Hears Security Report

LD262316 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1202 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Pristina, 26 Feb (TANJUG)—The current situation in Kosovo continues to be complex and burdened by a series of problems. It is primarily characterized by disturbed intranational relations, continued enemy activity, especially that of Albanian nationalists and separatists, the emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins, and the activities of Serbian and Montenegrin nationalists and other enemies.

This is the assessment made at today's session of all three chambers of the Province's Assembly by Rahman Morina, provincial secretary of internal affairs for Kosovo, at which, among other things, they considered the security situation.

Morina stressed that at the beginning of this month Albanian separatists intensified their activity, especially by propaganda means, by distributing pamphlets and painting slogans. The slogans are chiefly of the "Kosovo Republic" kind, though there are others characterized by features of nationalism and chauvinism. In Albanian nationalist and separatist circles abroad, anti-Yugoslav activity, Morina says, continues to take place, especially subversive propaganda.

The activity by Serbian and Montenegrin nationalists, Rahman Morina added, is being intensified. Basically, this activity is characterized by negative theses about there being no results and no struggle against the enemy, nor success in ideopolitical differentiation, and that nothing has been achieved.

Rallying on a nationalist basis intensifies national division, and Albanian nationalists and separatists are using this. Therefore, Morina believes, this problem must be approached on a united basis and be assessed at all levels and, in conformity with this, uniform measures taken to contribute to the elimination of hostile activity and the stabilization of the situation.

The provincial secretary expressed concern at the fact that criminal acts and offences between persons of different antionalities are on the increase, despite the numerous preventative measures taken. He stressed that no evidence has been found to suggest that hostility lies behind breakdowns and work stoppages, although his department is working constantly on this, especially in some suspicious and unexplained cases.

Assessing the public security situation as unfavorable, Rahman Morina related several details in connection with the discovery of a group which, using Kosovo and the country as a whole, smuggled and resold drugs

abroad. So far 38 people have been detained, 34 of whom are Albanians, 2 are Serbs, and 2 are Macedonians. It is interesting that as many as seven women are involved in this shady activity. The social structure of the group is as follows: 9 are private craftsmen, 10 are workers, 8 are unemployed, 7 are office workers, 1 is a teacher, 1 a housewife, 1 a student, and 1 a pensioner. All have been detained and are being investigated.

From the money they obtained, they bought houses, apartments, land, cars, trucks, and various technical and other goods. A large quantity of domestic and foreign currency, a certain amount of gold products with a total value of over 300 million dinars, a certain quantity of technical goods, and 13 cars were found in their possession and confiscated.

Morina drew attention to the ever increasing and varied forms of malversation, economic crime, and traffic offenses.

At separate sessions of the chambers, delegates accepted the introductory report by Rahman Morina and repeated well-known assessments of the Kosovo situation. In the sociopolitical chamber not a single delegate participated in the debate, even after several invitations to do so by the chamber's president.

Delegates in the Chamber of Municipalities and the Chamber of Associated Labor were more active. A large number of participants in the discussion commented on the reaction in the SR of Macedonia in connection with part of the speech by Azem Vlasi, president of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee Presidium in Split.

Fetah Sabani advocated that the chamber of municipalities dissociate itself from he believes, "the tendencious, unacceptable attacks and the labelling of Azem Vlasi coming out of Macedonia." This proposal was also supported by Ramadan Bitici, who stated that "he personally has experienced repression in Macedonia." Let the comrades from Macedonia, he said, solve the problems in their environment, in their own backyard, before accusing others. [passage omitted]

Agrokomerc Managers' Sentences Lengthened

LD262238 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1558 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Bihac, 26 Feb (TANJUG)—The Council of the Higher Court in Bihac, on the basis of a complaint by the public prosecutor in Velika Kladusa, has altered the decision of the Velika Kladusa basic court made on 21 October 1987 and sentenced Djuro Horvat to 1-year's imprisonment, Vlada Iskric to 1 and 1/2-years, Rasim Pozderac to 6-months, and Munib Beslagic and Ibrahim Filipovic to 9-months imprisonment. In addition to this, security measures have been pronounced against them banning them from carrying out their duties for a period of 5 years from the time the decision comes into effect; the time they have spent in prison will not be included.

As is known, these Agrokomerc workers were charged and sentenced for signing uncovered promissory notes. They were originally sentenced to 6-, 7-, 3-, and 4-months imprisonment.

Industry 'Flagrantly Violating' Price Rules

LD282256 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] As time passes it is becoming increasingly clear that for a large part of the economy, the FEC's intervention measures in the field of prices are virtually nonexistent. Calculations have shown that over the 3-month period reviewed price rises were about 4.5 percent more than what was stipulated. The assessment of the federal secretary for markets and general economic affairs made in the Yugoslav Assembly, that industry is flagrantly violating the regulations, bears witness to the seriousness of the situation.